

~~Canceled: BWC Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, 30 W. Spring St., Room 2 on Level 2, Columbus, 1:30 p.m.~~

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio House Democratic Caucus new member fundraiser, Due Amici, 67 E. Gay St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsors \$1,000 - Hosts \$500 - Friends \$250)

Rep. Rick Carfagna (R-Westerville) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Committee to Elect Rick Carfagna)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Township) news conference on bill regarding welfare benefit fraud, Harding Senate Press Rm., Statehouse, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Rep. Jay Edwards (R-Nelsonville) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Jay Edwards)

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500 Chair | \$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to Friends of Matt Dolan)

Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Capital Club, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000; Sponsor: \$2,500; Host: \$1,000; Guest: \$500 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Sen. Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to Citizens for Hottinger)

Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus, Lounge, 136 East Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1000 Host | \$500 Sponsor | \$350 Attendee to LaRose for Senate)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | **Fax:** 614-221-7844 | **Email:** gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

ALEC Health and Human Services Conference Call

1 message

Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>

To: latoursm@gmail.com

Wed, Mar 8, 2017 at 5:21 PM

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



Dear members:

The proposed American Health Care Act is a necessary first step in providing sustainable health care for all Americans. However, improvements to the proposal can be made.

In the lead up to the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) states were not sufficiently consulted and the bill passed along party lines. Today, ALEC members have an opportunity to provide real input into the solution. States need more **freedom** and flexibility to devise and execute their own health care programs. The flip side of freedom is **competition**—consumers and health care providers should be able to compete in an open marketplace to decrease cost and increase quality.

With this in mind—and using ALEC as a forum—legislators from across the country need to hear from each other and from the authors of the new package. House leadership has indicated a 3-4 week timeline for a debate and vote. So that we are all apprised on one-another's views, concerns and strategic intelligence, we will be providing materials on an ongoing basis and hosting telephone town hall discussions to encourage and foster a robust exchange of ideas.

Beginning on Thursday March 9 at 3:00 PM EDT, House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers will host the first of three broadbased conference calls on the health care reform package.

[RSVP for the March 9 Congressional Call Here](#)

On Monday, March 13 at 3:00 EDT the ALEC Task Force on Health and Human Services will host a conference call to gather feedback on state's position on repeal and replace. The call is your opportunity to share what you are hearing to make sure ALEC is raising your concerns with Congress and the Administration.

[RSVP for the ALEC Task Force Conference Call](#)

As the landscape shifts, we will distribute regular talking points and position statements from ALEC members and the growing coalition. As of now, key points for states include:

- This is the beginning of a long process. The reform package is flawed but represents a good start—the start of a conversation; of exchange.

- States need more flexibility in how they deliver healthcare; shouldn't need CMS approval to enact market-based reforms.
- Repeal the Medicaid Expansion to remove able-bodied adults from the pool and preserve funds for the most vulnerable.
- Allow for interstate competition in healthcare markets.
- Guaranteed flexibility in the Medicaid program.

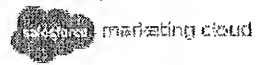
As legislators and advocates, we all understand the power of story. As we continue to assert the need for health care freedom and competition, it's important to provide a compelling narrative. If you want to share your stories—where you or another person has either benefited from a well-run, state program or have suffered under the existing program. Stories could include patient experience, business owners or those who work in the industry. To share your story, please reach out to Mia Heck directly.

[Click Here to Reach Out to Mia Heck Directly](#)

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Sarah, Join Members of Congress to Discuss American Health Care and the Roles of the States

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <kjohnson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 9, 2017 at 12:01 PM

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 ALEC-GENERIC BANNER-650x150

Digital Exchange - March 9, 2017

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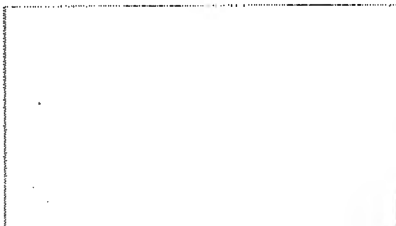
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Constituent Insight


What is One Thing Twenty-Somethings and ALEC Have in Common?

An ALEC Video Production | Sarah Wood | Public Affairs Coordinator



Last month, ALEC swept CPAC for intel on how young people feel about the federal government. Good news, the consensus was emphatic for limited government, free markets and federalism. Visit the ALEC youtube channel to gain insight on how young conservatives across the country feel about the federal government.

[Watch Full Video](#)

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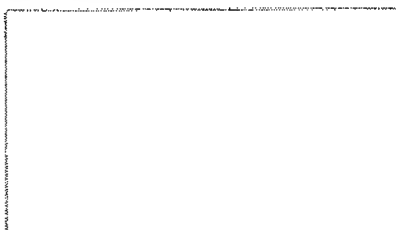
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Expert Opinion

States, Look Out: Don't Let Licensing Boards Limit Access to Quality Care

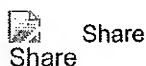
The Hill | Mia Heck | Director, Health and Human Services Task Force | @themiaheck



Americans continue to experience an increase in the cost of health care, a trend largely advanced by the massive expansion of regulation triggered by implementation of the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA). Last week, ALEC released it's latest analysis *Over Regulation Threatens Market-Driven Solutions in Dentistry*,

[Read Full Article](#)

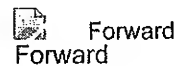
which outlines policies impacting state licensing regulations. Visit the ALEC website to find out more.



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Special Event

First Look for State Leaders: American Health Care Act

Today - 3:00 PM (EST) | RSVP for Call-in Number

RSVP for Call-In Number

House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers invites you to join Members of Congress for a conference call today, March 9th, at 3:00 PM (EST) after the American Health Care Act to repeal and replace Obamacare is marked up. This call will focus on big picture overview and messaging of the bill. This call will be the first in a series of discussions about Obamacare and the role of states.

Speakers: Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA); Rep. Phil Roe (TN); Rep. Jackie Walorski (IN); more TBA

When: Thursday, March 9th, 3:00 – 3:30 PM (EST)

Where: RSVP to receive the conference call-in number

Invited: State legislators and state think tank leaders

Please RSVP here to receive the call-in number.

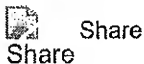
Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Shamed Dogan | MI-98 | @Dogan4Rep

Click Here for the Full Bio

Representative Shamed Dogan is a native Missourian and was born in Saint Louis, Missouri. He received his B.A. in Political Science & Philosophy from Yale University. Before entering the legislature Rep. Dogan served as a non-profit fundraiser, administrator and as an Alderman for four years in Ballwin, Missouri's 2nd Ward. Visit the ALEC website for the full bio.



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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Sarah, Join Members of Congress to Discuss American Health Care and the Roles of the States

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <kjohnson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Thu, Mar 9, 2017 at 1:19 PM

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Digital Exchange - March 9, 2017

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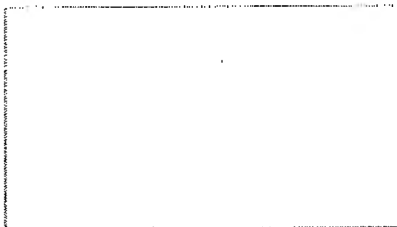
[Click Here to Register](#)

A previous version of this email was sent today where it indicated ALEC Legislator of the Week, Representative Shamed Dogan, serves in the state of Michigan and it is in fact the state of Missouri. We wanted to make sure the error was corrected.

Constituent Insight




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An ALEC Video Production | Sarah Wood | Public Affairs Coordinator



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Expert Opinion

States, Look Out: Don't Let Licensing Boards Limit Access to Quality Care

The Hill | Mia Heck | Director, Health and Human Services Task Force | @themiaheck

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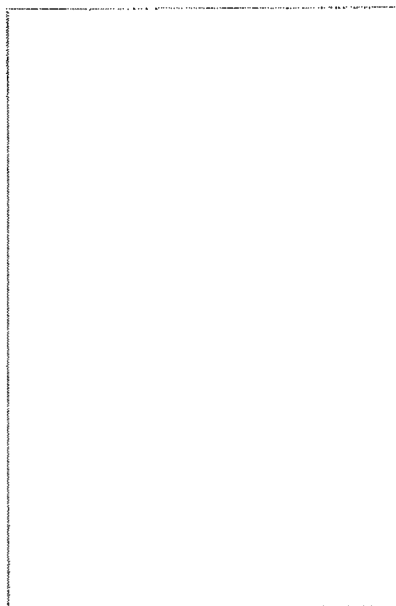


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Speakers: Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA); Rep. Phil Roe (TN); Rep. Jackie Walorski (IN); more TBA

When: Thursday, March 9th, 3:00 – 3:30 PM (EST)

Where: RSVP to receive the conference call-in number

Invited: State legislators and state think tank leaders

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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Shamed Dogan | MO-98 | @Dogan4Rep

[Click Here for the Full Bio](#)

Representative Shamed Dogan is a native Missourian and was born in Saint Louis, Missouri. He received his B.A. in Political Science & Philosophy from Yale University. Before entering the legislature Rep. Dogan served as a non-profit fundraiser, administrator and as an Alderman for four years in Ballwin, Missouri's 2nd Ward. Visit the ALEC website for the full bio.



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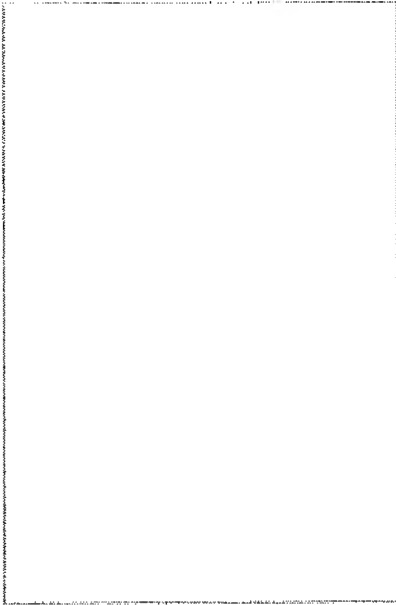
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7/25/2018

Gmail - Sarah, Join Members of Congress to Discuss American Health Care and the Roles of the States



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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

ALEC repeal and replace call MONDAY at 3PM need your input

1 message

Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>
To: Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>
Cc: Lisa Nelson <lnelson@alec.org>

Sat, Mar 11, 2017 at 4:05 PM

Dear friends,

On Monday, March 13 at 3:00 EDT the ALEC Task Force on Health and Human Services will host a conference call to hear state perspective on the policies related to the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The call is an opportunity for members to discuss ALEC principles and policy so we may educate Congress and the Trump administration appropriately.

You may RSVP for the call online here: <https://www.alec.org/landing-page/hhs-call/>

The American Legislative Exchange Council is here to provide a platform for conversation and exchange of best practices in public policy; we look forward to hearing your perspective on Monday.

Sincerely,

Mia Heck

Mia Heck, MBA

Director, Health and Human Services Task Force

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

D 571.482.5022

M 210.284.0388

**Upcoming Meetings:****2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina****2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado**

7/25/2018

Gmail - ALEC repeal and replace call MONDAY at 3PM need your input

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

The American Legislative Exchange Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is the largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators in the United States dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. The Council is governed by state legislators who comprise the National Board of Legislators and is advised by the Private Enterprise Advisory Council, a group of private, foundation and think tank members.



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Last Chance to RSVP: ALEC Health and Human Services Conference Call

1 message

Kensley E. Johnson <kjohnson@alec.org>
To: latoursm@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 13, 2017 at 11:06 AM

To view this email as a web page, go here.



Dear Representative LaTourette,

Today, March 13 at 3:00 EDT the ALEC Task Force on Health and Human Services will host a call to gather feedback on state's positions on repeal and replace. The call is your opportunity to share what you are hearing to make sure ALEC is raising your concerns with Congress and the Administration.

You may RSVP for the call online here: <https://www.alec.org/landing-page/hhs-call/>

Details Regarding the Call**When:** Today, March 3, 2017**Time:** 3:00 PM EDT – 3:30 PM EDT**Moderated By:** Mia Heck, ALEC Health and Human Services Task Force Director

For any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me directly.

All the best,

Kensley E. Johnson
Public Affairs Coordinator
Direct: 571-482-5019
Work: 361-354-0302
Kjohnson@alec.org

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22202

**Upcoming Meetings:**

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina

2017 Annual Meeting – July 19 – 21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

2017 States & Nation Policy Summit – December 6 – 8, 2017 – Nashville, Tennessee

7/25/2018

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

HHS Guidance & Announcement on 1332 Waivers for States

1 message

Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>
To: Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>

Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 10:28 AM

Dear Task Force Members,

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new guidance and a letter sent to Governor's and state Insurance Commissioners relaying how state innovation waivers may implement high risk pools / state-operated reinsurance, among other reforms as an early opportunity for states to lower premiums for consumers, improve insurance market stability, and increase consumer choice. They have based this on experience they have seen with provisions put in place in Alaska and Hawaii, and are shared by ALEC for your situational awareness.

The announcement/press release and letter are attached. As the beginning of regulatory reform begins at HHS ALEC looks forward to being a conduit in the process to implement meaningful reforms at the state level.

Thank you for your attention & warm regards,

Mia

Mia Heck, MBA

Director, Health and Human Services Task Force

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

D 571.482.5022

M 210.284.0388

**Upcoming Meetings:****2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina****2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado****2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee**

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7/25/2018

Gmail - HHS Guidance & Annoucement on 1332 Waivers for States

markets and federalism. The Council is governed by state legislators who comprise the National Board of Legislators and is advised by the Private Enterprise Advisory Council, a group of private, foundation and think tank members.

2 attachments



03.13.17 HHS Press Release 1332 Letter.pdf

205K



Final Signed Dear Gov 1332.pdf

62K



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

News Release

202-690-6343

media@hhs.gov

www.hhs.gov/news

Twitter [@HHSMedia](https://twitter.com/HHSMedia)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 13, 2017

Offering states flexibility to increase market stability and affordable choices *Providing opportunity through Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers*

Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in partnership with the Department of the Treasury, suggested ways to help foster healthcare innovation by giving states greater flexibility.

"States need the flexibility to develop innovative healthcare models that will improve patient access to care, increase affordability and choices offered, lower premiums, and improve market stability," said Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, M.D. "Today's letter highlights State Innovation Waivers as opportunities for states to modify existing laws or create something entirely new to meet the unique needs of their communities."

Section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) permits a state to apply for a State Innovation Waiver to pursue innovative strategies for providing its residents with access to high quality, affordable health insurance. The Departments are promoting these waivers to give states the opportunity to develop strategies that best suit their individual needs. Through innovative thinking, tailored to specific state circumstances, states can lower premiums for consumers, improve market stability, and increase consumer choice.

For example, Alaska has made significant improvements to its individual health insurance market by implementing a state-operated reinsurance program. Initial rate information in Alaska indicated that premiums would increase over 40 percent for the 2017 plan year. To mitigate this anticipated increase, the state created a reinsurance program prior to Open Enrollment for plan year 2017 to significantly offset the projected increase, helping to stabilize premiums. Based on this success, Alaska is now requesting a Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver, which is currently under review by the Departments, to permit it to receive funding based on the savings to the government related to lower premium tax credits and continue this program for future plan years. If a state's plan under its waiver proposal is approved, a state may be able to receive pass-through funding to help offset a portion of the costs for the high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance and other premium stabilization programs while also lowering costs for consumers. The Departments welcome the opportunity to work with states on Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers, and in particular, invite states to pursue approval of waiver proposals that include high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance programs.

To find further information regarding section 1332 State Innovation Waivers visit:

https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/State-Innovation-Waivers/Section_1332_State_Innovation_Waivers-.html

###



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAR 13 2017

Dear Governor:

The Administration's top priorities include improving patients' access to and affordability of care, slowing the rate of premium growth to improve the risk pool, bringing stability to the individual and small group health insurance markets, and increasing consumer choice. To achieve these ends, we are seeking to empower states with new opportunities that will strengthen their health insurance markets. In accordance with President Donald J. Trump's January 20, 2017, Executive Order¹ directing agencies to alleviate the burdens of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we are seeking to provide more flexibility and opportunities for innovation on the state level.

Under Section 1332 of the ACA, states can apply for State Innovation Waivers and pursue innovative strategies to adapt many of the law's requirements to suit the state's specific needs.² To receive approval, the state must demonstrate that a proposed waiver will provide access to quality health care that is at least as comprehensive and affordable as would be provided without the waiver, will provide coverage to at least a comparable number of residents of the state as would be provided coverage without a waiver, and will not increase the federal deficit. Before submitting its Section 1332 waiver application the state must also provide a public notice and comment period, including public hearings, sufficient to ensure a meaningful level of public input, and enact a law providing for its implementation of the waiver. Under a Section 1332 waiver, a state may receive pass-through funding associated with the resulting reductions in federal spending on Marketplace financial assistance consistent with the statute.

State Innovation Waivers that implement high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance programs may be an opportunity for states to lower premiums for consumers, improve market stability, and increase consumer choice. For example, in response to initial rate information for plan year 2017 in Alaska indicating that premiums were projected to increase by 42% in the individual market, Alaska implemented a state-operated reinsurance program for 2017 that mitigated the projected rate increase significantly. Based on that success, Alaska has applied for a Section 1332 waiver, part of which would implement a high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance program, the Alaska Reinsurance Program, for 2018 and future years. We are reviewing the

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/20/executive-order-minimizing-economic-burden-patient-protection-and>

² Provisions that may be waived include the following: Part I of Subtitle D of Title I of the Affordable Care Act (relating to establishing qualified health plans (QHPs)); Part II of Subtitle D of Title I of the ACA (relating to consumer choices and insurance competition through health insurance marketplaces); Sections 36B of the Internal Revenue Code and 1402 of the ACA (relating to premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions for plans offered within the marketplaces); Section 4980H of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to employer shared responsibility); and Section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code (relating to individual shared responsibility).

application and will work with the State on any updates or adjustments necessary for receipt of pass-through funding consistent with the statute.

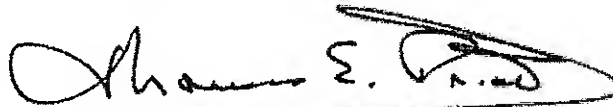
We welcome the opportunity to work with states on Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers, and in particular, invite states to pursue approval of waiver proposals that include high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance programs. If a state's plan under its waiver proposal is approved, a state may be able to receive pass-through funding to help offset a portion of the costs for the high-risk pool/state-operated reinsurance program. The amount of funding available will depend on state-specific circumstances.

We encourage states interested in applying for Section 1332 waivers to reach out to the Departments promptly for assistance in formulating an approach that meets the requirements of Section 1332. As a reminder, consistent with the statute, states must enact or revise state laws to apply for and implement Section 1332 waivers.

The Departments will work with states to review all applications within the timeframe provided under Section 1332's implementing regulations and do our best to work with states to review their applications on an expedited basis. In the coming weeks, we will be providing a checklist with further information intended to assist states in moving forward with waiver applications.

If your team would like to discuss Section 1332 waivers in more detail, please email stateinnovationwaivers@cms.hhs.gov. You may also find general information about State Innovation Waivers at the CMS website.³ We look forward to working with you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. Price, M.D.", enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Thomas E. Price, M.D.

cc: Steven Mnuchin, Department of the Treasury

³ https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/State-Innovation-Waivers/Section_1332_state_innovation_waivers.html



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Your ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Update ☒

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <kjohnson@alec.org>

Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 12:01 PM

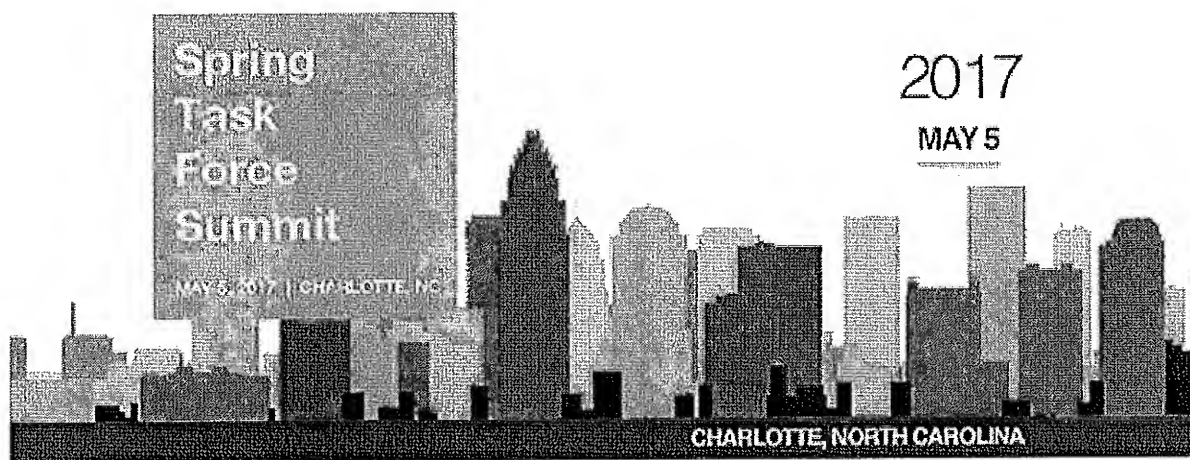
To: latoursm@gmail.com

[To view this email as a web page, go here.](#)**Center to Protect Free Speech - March 14, 2017**

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[Click Here to Register](#)**Expert Interview****Holding College Campuses Accountable to Protect Free Speech**

News/Talk 1130 WISN | Senator Leah Vukmir (WI)

[Listen to the Full Interview](#)

Wisconsin Senator Leah Vukmir, Chair of the Center to Protect Free Speech, explains why state legislators need to hold everyone in the campus community accountable to protect free speech, including faculty, students, campus administrators and campus police. Listen to learn more..



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Expert Insight

When Law Enforcement Can't Guarantee Our Liberty, Law Enforcement has Failed

National Review | David French



"In Berkeley, police literally stood back and let the riot unfold, later defending their passive approach on the grounds that actually enforcing the law could have caused greater injury. As it was, they intervened on a case-by-case basis to stop individual beatings and let rioters vandalize 15 buildings. University police made one arrest. City police reported zero arrests on the night of the riots."

[Read the Full Article](#)



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Expert Opinion

Donor Disclosure or Donor Intimidation? Same Game, Different Century

Red State | Shelby Emmett | Director, Center to Protect Free Speech



Who would have guessed the anti-slavery movement was once in danger of being intimidated out of existence? Throughout American history, politicians, policymakers and violent mobs have tried to expose donors in an attempt to intimidate and stop these organizations from exercising their right to speech and association.

[Read the Full Article](#)



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Policy Insight

Taxing Free Speech

ALEC Publication | Daniel Turner | Research Analyst | @danieltornator

In what world does it make sense to force someone to advertise for his competitor? Imagine Pepsi having to pay to promote Coca-Cola. No one should be required by the government to pay for advertising that he neither wants nor needs. **Compelled speech is not free**



speech.



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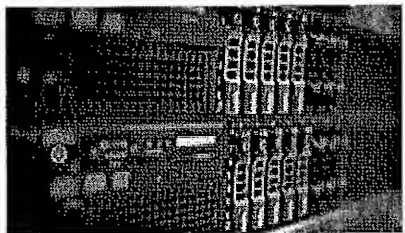
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Congress should prioritize protection of online privacy

The Hill | Jonathon Hauenschild | Director, Communications and Technology Task Force



Jonathan Hauenschild, Communications and Technology Task Force Director, explains how online privacy and free speech are intertwined. Even before the American Revolution, privacy and speech were interconnected in America.



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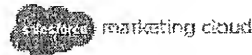
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House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HB 118

PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (Merrin, D.)
To expressly prohibit the dismissal of a property tax complaint for failure to correctly identify the property owner.

INTRODUCED

HB 126

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.)
To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program.

HB 127

STEEL WELDING (Perales, R., Dever, J.)
To establish in the Ohio Building Code requirements pertaining to structural steel welding and bridge welding.

HB 128

BUILDING INSPECTIONS (Roegner, K.)
To permit a general contractor or owner of specified buildings to enter into a contract with a third-party private inspector or a certified building department for building inspection and

to make other changes relating to building inspections.

HB 129

EDUCATION EXTERNSHIP (Smith, K., Kelly, B.)
To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

HB 6

CRIMINAL RECORDS (Barnes, J.)
To prohibit a person who publishes or disseminates criminal record information from soliciting or accepting a fee to remove, correct, modify, or refrain from publishing or otherwise disseminating the information and to provide criminal and civil remedies for a violation of the prohibition.

REFERRED

Community & Family Advancement

HB 115

COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES (Gavarone, T., Wiggam, S.)
To establish a database of persons who voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification.

HB 119

SNAP (Henne, M., McColley, R.)
Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program.

Criminal Justice

SB 7

PROTECTION ORDERS (Bacon, K., Manning, G.)
To provide that service of a protection order or consent agreement upon a person is not necessary for the person to be convicted of the offense of violating a protection order if the

person had actual notice of the order or agreement and the person recklessly violated its terms.

HB 109**PRISON TERMS (Patmon, B.)**

To create specifications that impose an additional prison term on a felony offender who commits the offense against a disabled person or elderly person and a period of Department of Youth Services commitment on a delinquent child for felony act committed against a disabled or elderly person, for felony offenses that do not delineate enhanced penalties when a disabled or elderly person is the victim of the violation.

HB 117**OPIOID THERAPY (Huffman, S., Brenner, A.)**

To establish a statewide pilot program for the provision of long-acting opioid antagonist therapy for offenders convicted of an opioid-related offense who will be released from confinement on supervised release, and to specify that the therapy is to be provided during both their confinement and their supervised release.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor**HB 113****UNION DUES (Brinkman, T.)**

To prohibit any requirement that employees of private employers join or pay dues to any employee organization and to establish civil and criminal penalties against employers who violate that prohibition.

HB 120**PRECIOUS METALS (Henne, M.)**

To make changes to the licensing and records requirements, exemptions, penalties, and other provisions of the Precious Metal Dealers Law.

Education & Career Readiness**HB 108****FINANCIAL LITERACY (Hagan, C., McColley, R.)**

To require one-half unit of financial literacy in the high school curriculum, to require the Chancellor of Higher Education to prepare an informed student document for each institution of higher education, to require the State Board of Education to include information on the

informed student document in the standards and model curricula it creates for financial literacy and entrepreneurship, and to entitle the act the "Informed Student Document Act."

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

SB 24**LOAN ACT (Terhar, L.)**

To create the Ohio Consumer Installment Loan Act.

HB 106**NON-BANK ATMS (Patton, T., Patmon, B.)**

To regulate nonbank automated teller machines.

HB 112**LEASE TERMINATIONS (Gonzales, A.)**

To allow a tenant seeking inpatient treatment for substance abuse to terminate or fail to renew their lease.

Health

HB 111**MENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.)**

To authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

HB 110**APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS (Hagan, C., Dean, B.)**

To create a subprogram of the College Credit Plus Program that permits students to participate in certified apprenticeship programs.

State & Local Government

SB 18**DAY DESIGNATION (Thomas, C.)**

To designate September 12 as "Jesse Owens Day."

SB 27**MONTH DESIGNATION (Beagle, B.)**

To designate the period beginning March 13 and ending April 15 as "Ohio Deaf History Month."

PIPE MATERIALS (Edwards, J.)

HB 121

To require a public authority to consider all piping materials that meet the engineering specifications for a state-funded water or waste water project.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB 107

TRAIN CREWS (Sheehy, M., Lepore-Hagan, M.)
To require the crews of freight trains to consist of at least two individuals.

Ways & Means

HB 105

WELL FUND (Cera, J., Hill, B.)
To limit the amount of revenue that may be credited to the Oil and Gas Well Fund and to allocate funds in excess of that amount to local governments, fire departments, and a grant program to encourage compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel.

HB 116

SALES TAX (Merrin, D.)
To exempt prescription eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other optical aids sold by licensed dispensers from sales and use tax.

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 98

DENTAL THERAPISTS (Lehner, P., Thomas, C.)
To establish licensing requirements for dental therapists.

SB 99

MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (Coley, B.)
To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group.

SB 100

DISCRIMINATION LAWS (Skindell, M., Tavares, C.)
To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, to

add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law.

SR 59**SOO LOCKS (Dolan, M., LaRose, F.)**

To encourage the President and the Congress of the United States and the United States Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take expeditious action in preparing an Economic Reevaluation Report.

SR 60**WOMEN'S DAY (Tavares, C.)**

Designating International Women's Day in Ohio, March 8, 2017.

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION: APPOINT SEN. PETERSON

MEDICAL MARIJUANA ADVISORY COMMITTEE: APPOINT MRS. MEGAN M. LAWRENCE, REPLACING MR. MARTIN MCCARTHY JR. WHO RESIGNED

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: APPOINT SEN. TERHAR

CONTROLLING BOARD: APPOINT SEN. HOTTINGER AS A TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT FOR SEN. OELSLAGER FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE BOARD'S MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017

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Ohio Report, Tuesday, March 14, 2017

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OHIO REPORT

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OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, MARCH 14

March House Floor Vote Eyed For Energy Standards Bill**Long-Term Care Operators Balk At Changes In Medicaid Budget****Desire To Expand Student Resources Drives Community College Budget Revision Proposals****Addiction, Mental Health Service Providers Tell House Budget Panel Of Capacity Problems****Industry Groups: Severance Tax Hike Would Be 'Disastrous'****Summer Food Program Push Made Optional In Bill Slated For Wednesday Floor Vote****Local Governments Lobby For Permissive License Fee Increase****Ohio Business Gateway Chief: Added User Load Proposed By Budget No Problem****DRC Continues To Push Plan Diverting Low-Level Offenders From Prison; DYS Backs Efforts To Keep Population Down****House Speaker Names Task Force Chairs****Governor's Appointments**

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Senate Committee Hearings

Judiciary

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

House Committee Hearings

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

Ways & Means

Finance: Health & Human Services Sub.

Finance: Higher Education Sub.

Finance: Transportation Sub.

Public Utilities

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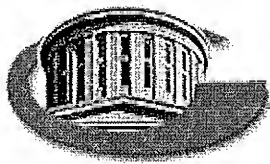
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Senate Activity for Tuesday, March 14, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB DENTAL THERAPISTS (Lehner, P., Thomas, C.) To establish licensing requirements for dental therapists.
98 Am. 1751.01, 2305.234, 2925.01, 3701.245, 3701.74, 3709.161, 3715.872, 3721.21, 4715.01, 4715.02, 4715.03, 4715.05, 4715.22, 4715.23, 4715.231, 4715.25, 4715.30, 4715.301, 4715.33, 4715.39, 4715.42, 4715.421, 4715.52, 4715.56, 4715.61, 4715.64, 4715.66, 4715.99, 4769.01, and 4773.02, to enact sections 4715.221, 4715.232, 4715.70, 4715.71, 4715.72, 4715.73, 4715.74, 4715.75, 4715.751, 4715.752, 4715.76, 4715.761, 4715.77, 4715.78, 4715.79, and 4715.80, and to repeal sections 4715.36, 4715.361, 4715.362, 4715.363, 4715.364, 4715.365, 4715.366, 4715.367, 4715.368, 4715.369, 4715.37, 4715.371, 4715.372, 4715.373, 4715.374, and 4715.375

SB MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (Coley, B.) To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling
99 individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group. Am. 5163.01, 5166.40, and 5166.405 and to enact section 5163.15

SB DISCRIMINATION LAWS (Skindell, M., Tavares, C.) To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual
100 orientation or gender identity or expression, to add mediation to the list of informal methods by which the Ohio Civil Rights Commission must attempt to induce compliance with Ohio's Civil Rights Law before instituting a formal hearing, and to eliminate certain religious exemptions from the Ohio Civil Rights Law. Am. 9.03, 124.93, 125.111, 153.59, 153.591, 340.12, 511.03, 717.01, 1501.012, 1751.18, 2927.03, 3113.36, 3301.53, 3304.15, 3304.50, 3314.06, 3332.09, 3721.13, 3905.55, 4111.17, 4112.01, 4112.02, 4112.021, 4112.024, 4112.04, 4112.05, 4112.08, 4117.19, 4735.16, 4735.55, 4757.07, 4758.16, 4765.18, 5104.09, 5107.26, 5123.351, 5126.07, 5165.08, 5515.08, and 5709.832

SR SOO LOCKS (Dolan, M., LaRose, F.) To encourage the President and the Congress of the United States and
59 the United States Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, and encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take expeditious action in preparing an Economic Reevaluation Report.

SR WOMEN'S DAY (Tavares, C.) Designating International Women's Day in Ohio, March 8, 2017.
60

SENATE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENTS

Legislative Service Commission: Appoint Sen. Peterson

Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee: Appoint Mrs. Megan M. Lawrence, replacing Mr. Martin McCarthy Jr. who resigned

Governor's Advisory Board of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives: Appoint Sen. Terhar

Controlling Board: Appoint Sen. Hottinger as a temporary replacement for Sen. Oelslager for the purpose of the board's meeting on Monday, March 13, 2017

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Judiciary

SBDUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamphetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. (CONTINUED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Dennis Cauchon, author of The Clemency Report, detailed in written testimony how drugs are weighed and drug composition is determined. He said it's possible for the state to determine precise drug makeups so that sentencing based off compounds would be unnecessary.

SBFELONY SENTENCES (Hackett, B.) To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. (SUBSTITUTE-CONTINUED; 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) explained the approved substitute measure, which he said "modifies the mandatory 3-8 year specification for causing permanently disabled harm in certain situations."

Sen. Skindell told the panel he plans to introduce an amendment that would remove additional mandatory minimum sentences that are contained in the substitute bill.

Carolyn Knight, executive director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, submitted written testimony in support of the measure, saying that "any effort to deter criminal behavior that results in a permanent disability is an appropriate and necessary as a prevention activity."

SBTRIAL TIMELINES (Eklund, J.) To provide a prosecutor an additional fourteen days to commence a trial after a person charged with a felony has been discharged because the person has not been brought to trial within the required amount of time and to authorize the court to release the person from detention in connection with those charges pending trial. (CONTINUED (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

SB OFFENDER REGISTRY (Gardner, R., Hite, C.) To require the Attorney General to establish a violent offender registry and to name this act "Sierah's Law." (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

The committee heard proponent testimony from the family of Sierah Joughin, whose murder inspired the bill.

The 20-year-old University of Toledo student went missing in July after going on a bike ride in Fulton County and was found murdered days later.

Her family said they've wondered if it they'd have found her more quickly had there been a violent offender registry because her suspected murderer was previously jailed for abduction.

"The sex offender registry that was put into place by legislators worked just like it was meant to that night. Law enforcement had contact with the offenders in our area within hours after Sierah went missing, but unfortunately, the man indicted for this crime was not on any list or registry," her mother, Sheila Vaculik said.

"By simply changing legislation to force convicted violent criminals to register, we can save lives. We can equip law enforcement with the tools they need to identify predators within those crucial moments when a crisis occurs. We can change the outcome of other violent crimes. We can spare others the pain my family has endured. We can honor Sierah and her life," she added.

Mark Wasylyshyn, Wood County sheriff and president of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, confirmed that such a registry would be beneficial to law enforcement. His association voted earlier in the day to back the bill

and amendments that would give county sheriffs the authority to conduct registration and provide them with the funds to do so.

Answering questions from the panel, he said it's important that the list of offenses eligible for the list not be too broad and that his preference is for the registry to be public.

"In my experience, we have not had any issues of people who are harassing people who are on the sex offender registry. I think that we've mitigated that and we work closely with the offender and with the community," the sheriff told Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering), who raised concerns about the list being accessible to the public.

Attorney General Mike DeWine and Lucas County Prosecuting Attorney also supported the bill through written testimony.

SBTRESPASSING NOTICES (Coley, B.) To amend the law governing criminal trespass to specify that **76** placing purple paint marks on trees or posts constitutes posting notice in a manner reasonably calculated to come to the attention of potential intruders. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said the practice of using purple paint instead of "no trespassing" signs is common in other states, including Texas, which was the first to allow it.

"It is often difficult for landowners, particularly owners who have large pieces of real estate, to maintain and replace their 'no trespassing' signs on a regular basis," he said as the rationale behind the bill.

Other methods signaling the same message would still be permitted, he added. The bill would simply give residents the option of using purple paint.

Multiple committee members questioned the effectiveness of the paint, saying it could be difficult to see at night. Sen. Coley said the burden of proof that a violator knew that they were on private property is up to prosecutors, regardless of that the method of notification was.

He said purple became the standard color for the warnings when Texas selected it in 1997. He said the bill is more geared toward rural areas where residents own large numbers of acres that they're looking to protect but have a difficult time keeping up with or affording signs.

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

HBTRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to **26** transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SBWORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (Beagle, B., Balderson, T.) To revise the laws governing the state's **3** workforce development system, programs that may be offered by primary and secondary schools, certificates of qualification for employment, and the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency, and to designate the first week of May as In-Demand Jobs Week. (CONTINUED-AMENDED; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Before the legislation was amended to clarify that In-Demand Jobs Week will begin in 2018, Ryan Burgess, director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, highlighted several portions of the bill, including credit for work-based learning experiences.

"The best way students can learn valuable, real-world skills and 'soft skills,' like collaboration and critical thinking, is to work," he said. "Senate Bill 3 expands current Credit Flexibility law by ensuring all students have the opportunity to receive credit for work experience and building a consistent framework that helps schools provide academic credit for this workplace experience."

Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) asked about businesses leveraging dollars available to them for training purposes.

Mr. Burgess said a problem has been the lack of awareness about the availability of those funds. He said the state is in the process of trying to raise awareness about those programs.

The legislation would also create an OhioMeansJobs-readiness certification for students, along with simultaneous credits, and change state law to allow ex-offenders to apply for Certificates of Qualification for Employment upon release from prison.

Patrick Higgins, an Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation Justice For All fellow, and Steven JohnsonGrove, senior staff attorney at the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, both expressed support for the CQE proposal.

However, they said suggested the proposal be amended to include federal and out-of-state offenses in those eligible for CQEs and that the state provide filing fee guidance.

They said the legislation can help more than 1.9 million Ohioans with felony or misdemeanor records.

"There are over 900 state statutes and regulations that block people with various criminal records from employment, housing, familial relationships and many other rights and privileges. The CQE provisions in Senate Bill 3 will ensure that more individuals can become work-ready and begin rebuilding their lives," they said.

Joel Potts, executive director of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association, said the OhioMeansJobs-Ready certificate "is designed to meet the universal demand for individuals with what are commonly referred to as 'soft skills.'"

"Many OMJ centers are actively partnering with their local schools on endeavors to teach these skills, and often times the development of soft skills is a priority for individuals who are receiving work-required public assistance benefits through their county JFS," he said.

"In addition, the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, administered locally by the CDJFS/OMJ center, accepts volunteers ages 16-24 who are looking to remove barriers and develop the necessary skills and training to enter the workforce."

The Ohio Job & Family Service Directors' Association Workforce Committee and Easter Seals Ohio also provided written testimony in support of the measure.

SBBRIDGE PROGRAM (Hoagland, F.) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of 6 fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Representatives of the state's counties and their engineers threw their support behind the legislation that would codify the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program.

Brad Cole, managing director of research at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, said under the legislation, the program will sunset after Fiscal Year 2019. However, it will require the director of the Department of Transportation to prepare a report on how the program can continue after that time.

"Inspecting, maintaining, repairing and, when necessary, replacing approximately 26,000 bridges on the county system requires the cooperation of state and local officials. CCAO supports this effort by the state to assist counties in meeting the transportation needs of Ohioans," Mr. Cole said.

Clinton County Engineer Jeffrey Linkous, representing the County Engineers Association of Ohio, said in its first three years the program has leveraged \$120 million in federal dollars to replace about 200 bridges.

"County Engineers Association of Ohio is in support of permanently continuing the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program. It does not completely solve the bridge funding issue. Nevertheless, as with every new program, if there are opportunities to improve the program we would like to make them," he said.


Subscribers Note: For full testimony, visit the [committee's website](#) under March 14.

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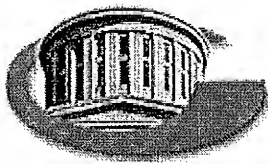
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GONGWER Ohio

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Volume #86, Report #49 -- Tuesday, March 14, 2017

March House Floor Vote Eyed On Energy Standards Bill

A bill to change the state's renewable energy standards into unenforceable goals is being teed up for a vote on the House floor later this month.

That's according to House Public Utilities Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), who said his committee will accept all testimony on the bill (HB 114) at its second hearing next week.

"It's the chair's intention and the intention of leadership to move this bill very smartly through this committee with the goal of having it on the floor of the Ohio House by the end of the month," Rep. Seitz said.

That's a relatively quick turnaround for the bill from Rep. Louis Blessing (R-Cincinnati) that was introduced March 8. But lawmakers spent months last session debating the issue, before a bill to pause the benchmarks for two years (HB554, 131st General Assembly) was ultimately vetoed by Gov. John Kasich.

Gov. Kasich, for his part, said Monday he hasn't changed his mind on the issue and predicted the bill will have trouble passing the Senate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 13, 2017)

Rep. Blessing, in testimony before the committee Tuesday, said the bill simply acknowledges industry trends in which companies are moving toward renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts on their own without the need for mandates.

"I want to work with this committee to craft the best legislation possible," Rep. Blessing said. "Given the heavy hitters on this committee, I truly believe great things will be accomplished by this bill."

Rep. Seitz, who along with 53 other members of the House Republican Caucus is a cosponsor on the bill, argued to committee members that the bill is essentially "identical" to last year's HB554 except for four changes, including:

- Converting the renewable energy standards to goals indefinitely rather than for a two year period.
- Permitting residential customers of a distribution utility or electric services company to opt out of any rider, charge or other recovery mechanism designed to recoup the cost of renewable energy.
- Underscoring that renewables are bypassable charges, rather than nonbypassable charges.
- Specifying that the 12.5% renewable energy goal to be attained by 2027 will end at that time and not continue indefinitely.

To opponents, who already opposed HB554, those are significant changes that have already led them to label the new bill "even worse" than its predecessor and a "de facto death sentence" for clean energy jobs. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 8, 2017)

In addition to environmental groups that have already blasted the proposal, the Ohio Democratic Party on Tuesday waded into the fray. ODP Chairman David Pepper cited Gov. Kasich's December remark that the state

was on the verge of a recession to criticize the bill. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2016)

"If you ever wanted evidence that Columbus is broken, look no further than the fact that Statehouse Republicans are pushing a bill just like one that the governor vetoed in December during the lame duck session," Mr. Pepper said. "At a time when Ohio is 'on the verge of a recession' and we have trailed the national average for job growth in 48 of the past 49 months, it's outrageous incompetence that Columbus Republicans are introducing legislation that would cause businesses to leave the state and endanger thousands of clean energy jobs."

Committee Democrats were similarly skeptical. Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) questioned the premise that the fossil fuel industry has received fewer subsidies than renewable energy. Rep. Blessing replied that he was speaking proportionally.

"What I'm saying is generally speaking, renewables receive a lot more subsidies than fossil fuels," Rep. Blessing said. "Granted, if you look at this in real dollars fossil fuels do get more money, but you have to look at the proportion."

Asked by Rep. Mike Ashford (D-Toledo) whether the bill would cost renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs, which both sides agreed currently number at about 100,000 jobs, Rep. Blessing said, "It might, but I would point out at what cost?"

Rep. Blessing likened it to having people purposefully break windows in order to support workers who fix windows. Rep. Seitz followed up by adding that the "vast majority" of those jobs are in the energy efficiency area, which would still be mandated under the bill at a cumulative 17.2%.

The legislation will likely have no trouble clearing committee given that 12 Republican committee members - more than half of the 23-member committee - are sponsoring the bill.

Long-Term Care Operators Balk At Changes In Medicaid Budget

Representatives of nursing facilities told a House budget panel Tuesday that a budget proposal to cut their reimbursement and fold them into Medicaid managed care could severely limit their ability to provide services.

Pete Van Runkle, executive director of the Ohio Health Care Association, told the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services the issues are the biggest concerns his industry has with the proposed executive budget (HB 49).

Mr. Van Runkle said the proposal to move the long-term services and supports population into managed care is unnecessary because nursing facilities already manage the care for patients.

"We coordinate the care for our patients in our facilities. We're responsible for all of their care," he said. "We basically think that managed care is not right for long-term services and supports."

He also told the committee that his industry is wary of managed care after experiencing problems with the launch of the MyCare Ohio program in several counties. That program, which put some of their residents into managed care, led to difficulties for facilities in getting reimbursed.

Mr. Van Runkle said the evaluation of MyCare Ohio has not been released, and he urged lawmakers to be cautious of moving more populations into managed care without more research.

Kathryn Brod, president and CEO of LeadingAge Ohio, also testified about concerns with the budget proposal. Asked by subcommittee Chair Rep. Mark Romanchuk (R-Mansfield) about managed care, she said some of her members might be interested in it, but there have been problems.

"Some of our members would be very intrigued at the opportunity to work at a greater degree in the managed care space, however there have been a fair number of issues that we believe need to be addressed," she said. "Without protections, they would feel very uncomfortable."

Mr. Van Runkle and Ms. Brod both said the reimbursement calculations could have severe effects on the workforce of skilled nursing facilities.

Mr. Van Runkle said the budget proposes to cut \$263 million from nursing facilities over the biennium, a total that would force facilities to reduce their staff sizes and roll back pay raises.

"It is true that we spent that money that came through rebasing to give our people raises, to hire more staff, to deal with the workforce crisis that we have out there right now," he said. "If we lose this money through this clawback, we're going to have a heck of a time."

The administration has said the cuts are designed to roll back reimbursements that came in above what they were estimated to be after the rates were adjusted in the last budget.

Department of Medicaid Director Barbara Sears told the subcommittee last week that the cuts are due to the agreed-upon formula leading to far more in reimbursement for nursing facilities than the state intended. The administration had expected to put in about \$150 million more last budget, and ended up spending \$263 million more. (OHT white paper)

"We're coming back and saying we made an error in the calculation," she said.

Mr. Van Runkle said the industry agreed to a new formula, not a specific amount of money.

"We think that should be taken out of the budget bill," he said. "It's inappropriate policy. It goes against the deal in the last budget bill."

Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) expressed concern that keeping the higher reimbursement levels would put an added strain on a Medicaid program that is already growing too fast.

Ms. Brod said improving the care given to people in nursing facilities will reduce costs in the long run by cutting down on the expensive treatment episodes the state will have to pay for.

"Without those rates we can't attract the workforce that we need, and without that I believe that the cost will continue to go up," she said.

Mark Ricketts, president and CEO of National Church Residences, which runs skilled nursing facilities and other programs for older Ohioans, said the higher reimbursement rates are needed because these facilities already struggle to pay their workers a living wage.

He said his organization has raised pay in recent years in an effort to help its workers, but that they can't hire enough people to provide the best care. He said it's also hard to retain workers because of the low pay.

"We're determined that we could not and would not in good conscience pay our employees a wage that does not lift them out of a vulnerable population," he said.

Desire To Expand Student Resources Drives Community College Budget Revision Proposals

Community College leaders on Tuesday said the momentum they've achieved in finding better ways to save students dollars on textbooks and tuition while providing a quality education is jeopardized by the executive budget.

Presidents from a handful of two-year colleges told the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education that budget (HB 49) provisions freezing tuition and requiring institutions to cover textbook costs could put a stop to the innovative work they're already doing.

Ohio Association of Community Colleges President Jack Hershey said priorities for institutions include providing student supports, creating more 2+2 and 3+1 pathways, increasing opportunities through industry-

driven bachelor's degrees, and making available more open resource materials.

Those efforts would shorten the time and cost to credentials and improve student completion rates, but they'll be difficult to continue with essentially flat budget allocations for State Share of Instruction and the Ohio College Opportunity Grant coupled with new financial limitations, he said.

"Unfortunately, House Bill 49 continues a one-size-fits-all approach to college costs that pretends community colleges and universities face the same challenges," Mr. Hershey said. "Community colleges do not have an affordability problem. Instead, our top priority is helping more of our students complete their academic goals, whether that is earning an associate degree, a certificate or credential, transferring to a university, or upgrading their skills for a promotion in their current job."

While universities are permitted to raise costs for room and board and on graduate students, community colleges don't have options for bringing in more revenue, he said.

OACC offered recommendations to alleviate that, including allowing two-year institutions to increase tuition by up to \$10 per credit hour and permitting all institutions to establish a new student completion and career advantage fee.

"This fee would be used specifically to implement initiatives and programs in their state-mandated completion plans that will lead to increased student success rates," Mr. Hershey said. "Unlike tuition and general fee increases in the past, this fee would be developed in consultation with the chancellor and the revenues would be dedicated solely to direct student support services such as academic advisors, career counselors and the implementation of Campus Completion Plans."

Sinclair Community College President Steve Johnson said two-year institutions often enroll non-traditional students and those who are first-generation college students.

Because the cost of attending his institution averages about \$800 per year after grants and scholarships, he said it's likely family and work obligations or lack of support that set students back as opposed to financial issues.

"Allowing a fee increase that would be modest, that wouldn't burden the students, to hire 10-15 more people that could mentor thousands of more students in a genuine direct relationship manner to help them get through - that's what they need," he said.

Rep. Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) said he "couldn't agree more" with the need for more student supports, adding that the goal should be to increase quality faster than costs - something additional state dollars could help with.

Columbus State Community College President David Harrison said his institution hasn't increased tuition in more than six years and is graduating more students than ever despite historically low enrollment.

The institution has also collaborated with faculty to reduce textbook costs, saving students an estimated \$4.7 million over the past four years, he said.

"We have momentum, but we are not reaching all students due to resource limits," Mr. Harrison said. "We are concerned that some of the policy proposals in the Fiscal Years 2018-19 state budget could negate the growing momentum of the last several years."

He recommended an increased focus on 2+2 bachelor's degree partnerships, which help students earn degrees at lower costs.

If all 1,500 students who transfer from Columbus State to Ohio State University each year were to earn their associates degree first, they'd shave off about 40% of the cost of a bachelor's degree, Mr. Harrison said.

"Ohio ranks in the bottom quarter in the U.S both in terms of the number of students who graduate with debt and in the amount of debt they take on. States with strong 2+2 policies and incentives score much better on both measures," he said.

Mr. Hershey also pushed the expansion of 3+1 pathways, saying that the state is moving too slowly in bringing community colleges and universities together to discuss the logistics.

The budget permits the chancellor to hold a meeting on the topic, something Mr. Hershey said he already has the authority to do and should as soon as possible.

The state also needs to pick up its pace in the area of short-term certificates that could lead to good paying jobs with less than a year of training, he said. He asked lawmakers for \$10 million in FY 2019 to help colleges develop and offer short-term certificate program to meet in-demand workforce needs.

Mr. Hershey, like many other higher education leaders, also called for the removal of a budget provision requiring institutions to provide students with textbooks.

It's untrue that institutions are not interested in working to address the issue of textbook costs, he said, pointing to a currently-under-review grant application that would assist community colleges with developing Open Educational Resource materials for the top 20 most highly enrolled courses.

The proposal would impact more than 225,000 students and save them an estimated \$30 million annually on textbooks, he said.

"Hopefully, we can get to work on real solutions on the issue of textbook affordability even before the legislature finalizes its work on this state budget," Mr. Hershey said.

The committee also heard testimony from the presidents of Cincinnati State Technical, Lorain County, Edison State, and Southern State community colleges.

Subscribers Note: Complete testimony is available on the committee's [website](#) under March 14.

Addiction, Mental Health Service Providers Tell House Budget Panel Of Capacity Problems

Local addiction and mental health service providers told a House subcommittee Tuesday they need more funding to shore up capacity, and pointed to the Medicaid behavioral health redesign as a potential hurdle for that progress.

Representatives from county boards and nonprofit addiction services agencies shared stories with the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services of shortages in capacity and what they need money for.

Jerry Craig, executive director of Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, suggested the legislature fund nine collaborative 16-bed stabilization centers across the state at \$1 million per year. He also asked for an additional \$12 million for local ADAMHS boards to expand capacity for recovery access, withdrawal management and treatment services.

"We would propose that you allocate the funds to boards on a modified per-capita formula, using population and a three-year average of overdose deaths," he said. "This will allow any resident, irrespective of residence, to access the most critical services."

Maintaining coverage through Medicaid expansion was also a key way to help fight the drug issue, advocates said.

Michael Cohen, a member of Summit County Opiate Task Force, said his daughter is a recovering addict and through Medicaid gets shots of Vivitrol, which blocks opiate receptors in her brain.

"Of the recipients in Ohio, 92% get this shot through Medicaid," he said. "Stop Medicaid expansion and the death toll will skyrocket. My daughter has access to mental health counseling and gets her medication because of Medicaid expansion and the ACA. She and most others would not be able to afford these lifesaving services without the Medicaid expansion."

He suggested the Ohio Addiction Treatment Program should be opened up to the whole state and well-funded.

"A resident's location should not determine services," he said. "This program has been tested since 2013 and it is the best medical protocol to date. This program is a proven success."

Joe Trolan, executive director of the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, said his county has experienced a rise in both overdose deaths and suicides in recent years.

Dennis Baker, executive director of Mansfield Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, testifying alongside Mr. Trolan, said his organization offers recovery housing for people receiving medication-assisted treatment.

Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) asked what need the community has for more recovery housing.

Mr. Baker said they have a long waiting list, but that they've found most people are able to leave the housing as they find jobs and finish training programs.

"We just don't have enough space for all the people who need the service," he said. "A very important part of recovery is getting them some stable housing."

Mr. Baker said the proposed new rates under the state's behavioral health redesign are not ideal, but his organization is expected to be able to continue to provide services. The higher reimbursement for more credentialed staff has encouraged his workers to get higher certification.

"Nobody's happy with the rate change but we're going to make it work," he said.

Mary Stiles, general counsel for OhioGuidestone, said the planned behavioral health redesign is moving too fast, and the rules released earlier this year are vague and inconsistent.

"The transition is being rushed too fast, rather than taking the necessary time to responsibly navigate the transition with the provider community," she said. "A hastily designed transition will have a destabilizing effect on providers and ultimately impact care to our clients. We ask you, the members of the General Assembly to delay implementation."

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) asked how much time her organization would need. Ms. Stiles said they would need at least six months after final rules were provided.

Ms. Stiles also warned that they experienced problems in the MyCare Ohio transition, and that similar problems receiving payment through contracts under the behavioral health redesign would be costlier as it would affect a much broader base of patients.

Industry Groups: Severance Tax Hike Would Be 'Disastrous'

Representatives of the oil and gas industry on Tuesday lobbied members of the House Ways & Means Committee to remove a proposed severance tax hike from the budget.

The industry's concerns on Gov. John Kasich's latest proposal came as lawmakers - and Gov. John Kasich - have admitted the provision is unlikely to survive the General Assembly's budget rewrite. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2017)

Still, API Ohio and the Ohio Oil and Gas Association each criticized the proposal, which they said would harm an industry that's already facing a downturn.

The budget proposes a 6.5% tax on oil and natural gas collected at the wellhead or a 4.5% tax on natural gas liquids and those sold after processing in a move the administration estimates will generate an additional \$140 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$310 million in FY 2019. (Redbook)

Tax Commissioner Joe Testa and the administration have previously argued the industry isn't paying its fair share - a charge the industry is pushing back on. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 28, 2017)

"While prices have somewhat rebounded from a disastrous low in 2016, Ohio has to remain cognizant of the fact that capital is fluid and mobile. One of the only advantages we have is a low tax rate," OOGA Executive Vice President Shawn Bennett said. "If you make our tax rate even middle of the pack, investment and development will decrease." (Testimony)

But some lawmakers sought clarification on that premise. Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire), for instance, pointed out that the Oil and Gas Regulation and Safety line item of the Department of Natural Resources budget received a \$6 million increase in recent years. Budget documents show that line item received \$13.27 million in FY 2016 and was allocated \$19.44 million in subsequent years including under the proposed budget.

"How did we get a \$6 million increase in spending one year when we're going through a downturn in the industry?" Rep. Cera asked.

Mr. Bennett and API Ohio Executive director Chris Zeigler referred the question to ODNR. But both said the number of wells currently operating numbers around 20 - well below the 60 in operation several years ago.

"There is never a good time to be the bearer of increased taxes, but for Ohio's oil and natural gas industry and supporting businesses, an increased severance tax could be devastating," Mr. Zeigler said. (Testimony)

Mr. Zeigler argued that any increase in the taxes should not be used to fund a "wide-scale reduction" in other taxes. The severance tax revenue, both groups argued, should be used to support the industry, such as through a program to fill orphan wells - funding for which they said would be cut under the budget proposal.

"Since 2011, Ohio severance tax increase proposals have not been presented in the context of an overall energy policy or taken into account other factors directly impacting the industry," Mr. Zeigler said. "The proposed tax increases are merely a means to an end objective that doesn't promote the industry's continued existence."

Mr. Bennett argued that one of the benefits of the current approach, which is a volumetric tax, is that it more easily mirrors industry activity, with revenue growing or shrinking based on upturns or downturns in the industry.

He also said the proposal differs from previous ones in that it would increase taxes on all oil and gas production in the state.

"In the past iterations of the proposed severance tax increase, conventional operators were held harmless as a severance tax change was only proposed for horizontal operators," he said. "In HB 49, all oil and gas operators would face a 16-times greater severance tax than what they are paying today. Traditional Ohio 'mom and pop' operators would now face a tax increase - a tax increase their current businesses could not bear. The result would be the shutdown of conventional operations, including family businesses and traditional Ohio companies."

Several lawmakers questioned comparisons between Ohio and other producing states, with Mr. Bennett suggesting that an "apples to apples" comparison is virtually impossible. Regulatory climate, infrastructure and taxes are all factors operators consider when deciding in which states to operate, he said.

Summer Food Program Push Made Optional In Bill Slated For Wednesday Floor Vote

A bill aimed at turning more school buildings into summer meal sites for students in need is headed to the House floor with an amendment that makes the process permissive.

The House Education and Career Readiness Committee on Tuesday unanimously reported the measure (HB 80) following debate on an amendment that eliminated language requiring schools not currently providing summer food programs to enter into contracts with approved third party operators.

Rep. Ron Hood (R-Ashville) said he introduced the amendment on behalf of those in his caucus who are opposed to school mandates.

Democrats objected to the change, however, arguing that it would make the bill ineffective because schools can already enter into contracts with providers who want to use their facilities to run summer food programs.

"I am deeply troubled by this amendment because it seems to me it renders this bill completely devoid of impact," said Rep. Greta Johnson (D-Akron) "It makes this bill a good idea, which is unfortunate because it allows schools who are doing nothing to feed these hungry children to continue doing nothing. I'm not sure it furthers the cause of what this bill intends to do."

Rep. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) added that she's typically concerned about local control, but "the need of feeding our children is something that overrides that."

One of the bill's sponsors, Rep. Sarah LaTourette (R-Chagrin Falls) said she also would have preferred to kept the bill as-is, but added that it's a necessary compromise if schools are to be given authority to enter into certain contracts.

"There are some many members in our caucus who have concerns anytime they hear the word mandate and I was trying to be sensitive to that," she said. "I don't think the amendment hurts the bill."

Although schools can currently work with third-party operators, the bill advises on insurances, liability and payment collection - all of which would be helpful guidance in creating contracts, Rep. LaTourette said.

Lisa Hamler Fugitt, executive director of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, told the panel that 42% of Ohio students are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.

She supported the measure, saying that it will help ensure that more of those eligible students continue to have access to those meals during the summer months when school isn't in session.

"Quite simply, we can't afford to not consider approaches like House Bill 80," she said. "Ohio's hungry children are spread across the state, in urban environments, in rural areas, and in our suburbs and small towns. When they can't get to us, we must get to them."

"House Bill 80 provides one more way to accomplish that - another way to feed our children in schools they know and trust, to have sites in neighborhoods that are closer to home, and to do so at no cost to already-strapped districts," Ms. Hamler Fugitt continued.

Ashon McKenzie, policy director for Children's Defense Fund-Ohio shared those sentiments. He pointed to a Food Research and Action Center study showing that more than 75% of eligible Ohio children regularly eat a school meal, but only about 10% of those take part in summer meal programs.

"These children are left in challenging positions to find food for themselves or go hungry," he said. "Schools are typically central locations in a community and ideal locations for a summer meals programs."

However, the Department of Education has determined that just 230 schools, or about 13% of those in the state, are among the 1,800 open meal sites, Mr. McKenzie said.

Scott Neely, director of government affairs for the Children's Hunger Alliance, added that Ohio ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of the number of children participating in summer meals when compared to the number that eat at school during the school year.

"What can be done in Ohio to increase summer meal participation from 10% of eligible children to the national goal of 40 percent? Children's Hunger Alliance believes that part a big part of the solution is to increase access to summer meal programs," he said.

Mr. Neely said this is also growing evidence that summer food programs also have a positive impact on children's academic progress because they're more likely to socialize with peers and take part in activities offered at the meal site.

Darold Johnson, legislative director for the Ohio Federation of Teachers, also said summer food programs paired with learning activities have worked well in preventing summer knowledge loss that's prevalent among poor students.

Local Governments Lobby For Permissive License Fee Increase

Municipalities and townships should be extended the opportunity to levy a permissive \$5 license fee, witnesses told a Senate panel on Tuesday.

Proponents of extending the ability to levy the fee to municipalities and townships told members of the Senate Commerce, Transportation & Workforce Committee that doing so will help keep up with transportation infrastructure needs.

Gov. John Kasich's biennial transportation budget proposal (HB 26⁰⁰) was amended in the House to allow counties to levy the \$5 permissive fee, but William Murdock, executive director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, said other forms of government need additional revenue as well. (Redbook)

"While the \$5 permissive license fee increase for counties in the current bill is an important step, we believe an increase should also be extended to municipalities and townships to use for transportation purposes," he said.

"This is a simple way to let local communities of any size or type address the needs their businesses and residents demand. To be very direct, allowing every Ohio community the basic resources needed to fill more potholes should be a priority for both job growth and safety."

Delaware City Manager Tom Homan, testifying on behalf of the Ohio Municipal League, said the limit on the total combined fee of \$20 that local governments can levy should be raised for the first time since 1987.

"Clearly, the revenue generated from license plate fees is not an 'end-all, be-all' of local government funding," he said. "But at a time when costs to maintain these roads is at an all-time high, license fees are one more tool in our tool box to alleviate the strain on our funding."

Mr. Homan said the estimated cost to local governments to maintain roads and bridges over the next 25 years is \$41 billion. License plate fees could help meet those needs, he said.

"The fee you are being asked to consider is not mandatory, but a permissive fee. As currently occurs, local governments will vary on how they utilize this option. For this reason, granting additional permissive authority would not be an automatic increase across the state. It is simply one more option for local communities," he said.

Brad Cole, managing director of research at the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, praised the House change that would allow counties to levy the \$5 permissive fee. However, he also threw his support behind extending the ability to municipalities and townships.

"CCAO also would support a simple amendment to the county MVL authority that would permit commissioners to submit the question of enacting the fee to the voters, in addition to the authority already granted by the bill for commissioners to adopt the MVL fee, subject to a potential referendum requiring the question of the MVL fee to be submitted to the voters," he said.

Chairman Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) questioned the CCAO's request that the permissive fee be allowed to be submitted to voters. "Why would they want to have that option at their fingertips as well?" he asked.

Mr. Cole said it would be in line with Ohio law on MVL fee increases. "It's also helpful to be able to say they have a choice," he added.

In written testimony, both the Ohio Municipal League and the Ohio Township Association advocated for the ability to levy the permissive license fee to be extended to cities, villages and townships.

"Safe and reliable roads are needed in Ohio to create and maintain economic development and a quality living environment. By permitting municipalities and townships the authority to levy an additional permissive MVL fee, you are providing an option to local officials to relieve budget constraints and complete road maintenance projects that are long overdue," OML Executive Director Kent Scarrett and OTA Executive Director Matt DeTemple wrote in testimony.

Painesville Township Trustee Josh Pennock echoed those sentiments in written testimony.

Mr. Murdock also supported budget language that creates a pilot program on Interstate 670 in Columbus that would allow Department of Transportation Director Jerry Wray to vary speed limits on the roadway and open the left shoulder to traffic in an effort to ease congestion.

Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) said she has heard concerns from constituents that the proposal would amount to a speed trap.

"This is about safety and reducing congestion," Mr. Murdock said.

The Greater Ohio Policy Center continued to request additional funding for public transportation. A.B.A.T.E. of Ohio, Inc. spoke out against a provision that would require the director of Department of Public Safety to authorize private organizations to offer the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Basic Rider Course.

Clinton County Engineer Jeffrey Linkous, representing the County Engineers Association of Ohio, provided written testimony in support of a two-year pilot program that reduces commercial vehicle registrations from \$30 to \$15 in Clinton, Lucas, Montgomery and Stark counties.

Ohio Business Gateway Chief: Added User Load Proposed By Budget No Problem

The state's chief information officer told a House committee Tuesday that he's confident the Ohio Business Gateway could handle an increase in new users that would result from the executive budget proposal.

His testimony came one week after municipalities and businesses groups voiced concern about the OBG's current operations and a budget provision (HB 49) that would centralize city income tax collections by mandating use of the system. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 7, 2017)

"We are confident that either the existing or the new system has more than enough capacity to handle the increased volume and transactions," CIO Stuart Davis told the House Ways & Means Committee in his testimony.

Through the budget, the administration proposes to centralize the administration of municipal income taxes on business net profits via the OBG.

The OBG is allotted just more than \$4 million a year in General Revenue funding for Fiscal Years 2018-2019 under the executive budget. That's flat funding from FY 2017, according to the Department of Administrative Service's Redbook.

In addition to questioning whether the OBG could handle that workload, members of the committee also sought a response to testimony from businesses that said the interface makes it more difficult to file taxes.

Mr. Davis told lawmakers a forthcoming OBG 3.0 overhaul of the system will be easier to use and potentially more compatible with the software used by filers. With a cloud-based approach, he said, the new system will be able to grow and shrink capacity based on demand.

As far as other complaints, he said two additional servers were recently set up to address slowdown issues and that two more will be installed by the end of March.

"The gateway has a 15-year track record of managing increased volume and capacity and of adding and enhancing features and services for our service partners, our term for the state agencies and local governments who collect payments through the gateway," he said. "We have demonstrated numerous times our ability to meet this ongoing demand for new services and absorb any impacts to our capacity to deliver services through the gateway."

Asked by Rep. Steve Hambley (R-Brunswick) why so few businesses used the gateway considering that it's available to all businesses in the state, Mr. Davis said he did not know. Mr. Davis said the OBG services more than 5 million transactions a year, representing over \$12 billion and has more than 825,000 businesses registered. By comparison, when the service launched in 2002 it collected \$250 million through 100,000 transactions.

Rep. Michael Henne (R-Clayton) asked specifically whether OBG 3.0 would interface more easily with the systems filers use. Mr. Davis replied that the issue was still being explored.

The upgrade should be in place by Oct. 1, Mr. Davis said. But some lawmakers expressed skepticism of that timeline given the budget provision that calls for centralizing collection to be up and running by year's end.

"If I were in your shoes, I would be pretty darn nervous about that date," Rep. Gary Scherer (R-Circleville) said.

"Certainly that runway gets shorter every day," Mr. Davis acknowledged. "But we feel confident at this time we can do that."

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) questioned why officials aren't upgrading the current system to be more user friendly.

"The accountants would then go ahead and use it rather than (us) forcing them to use it," Rep. Rogers said. "It would seem to me I would want those individuals filing tax returns to use my system or my gateway and I would try very hard when it's up and running to make sure it's easy to use."

DRC Continues To Push Plan Diverting Low-Level Offenders From Prison; DYS Backs Efforts To Keep Population Down

The state's stubbornly high prison population can be reduced through increased investment in communities, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Director Gary Mohr told members of House panel Tuesday.

Gov. John Kasich's budget proposal (HB 49) contains an expansion of a pilot program that began in Clinton, Ross, Medina, Lucas, Williams, Defiance, Henry and Fulton counties intended to treat and maintain low-level offenders in their communities by supplementing supervision resources to the local courts. (Redbook)

"The participating counties have embraced this pilot and have implemented a diverse range of programs, from hiring a medical director to assist the court in selecting drug treatment options to funding a detox center in a

vacant wing of a county jail," Mr. Mohr told members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation.

"The response of the pilot counties underscores the idea that local communities are better situated to identify the needs of their citizens who are struggling with addiction. These resources allow for the counties to address these needs while maintaining public safety."

Those convicted of crimes involving violence, sex or mandatory sentences would be excluded from the program.

Of the nearly 20,000 yearly commitments to DRC facilities, about 8,300 are serving 12 months or less, Mr. Mohr said. Of that total, about 3,400 would be eligible for the program, 25% of which would be women.

If the program is implemented, 27 counties would have 10 offenders or less to manage in their communities, while another 50 counties would have 20 offenders or less, Mr. Mohr said.

"I think this budget offers a sea change in what I've experienced in 43 years. I think it utilizes evidence; it utilizes what we've known to be effective," Mr. Mohr said.

Since Mr. Mohr's career with DRC began in 1974, he said the prison population has increased from about 8,300 to more than 50,000. Drug commitments have increased from 13% of the intake then to 28.2% today.

Over that same time, the DRC's staffing levels increased from 5.2% of all state employees to 25%.

"Along with those numbers go resources," he said, noting DRC's budget is now about \$1.7 billion annually.

The diversion program, Mr. Mohr said, has the potential to save at least \$20 million over the biennium.

Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab), however, raised concern about the impact the program could have on already overcrowded county jails across the state.

"The folks that we're talking about here, their primary sanction should not to be to spend time in jails," Mr. Mohr said.

Rep. Alicia Reece (D-Cincinnati) noted that it costs about \$71 per day to house an offender in prison, and through the pilot program, participating counties have been receiving about \$23 per day per offender. She said she worries that the diversion program will be a financial burden on counties.

Mr. Mohr said once the program is implemented statewide, the figure sent to counties will increase slightly. He also said local governments have the ability to be more practical about spending.

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) said he supports keeping low-level offenders out of the prison system, but expressed doubt that judges would get on board with the program, especially those that liked to be seen as "tough on crime" for electoral purposes.

"I'm assuming there's going to be a great deal of pushback," he said.

"I believe judges want to do the right thing. I trust judges. I want to enhance discretion in all cases," Mr. Mohr replied.

In addition to the diversion program, Mr. Mohr also detailed an effort to increase educational attainment in prison through a program that provides any inmate that completes a GED program while incarcerated with 90 days credited toward their sentences.

"It is well documented that educational attainment is directly correlated to recidivism reduction," he said. "In fact, we know if an inmate completes a GED or high school equivalency they are significantly less likely to recidivate."

Department of Youth Services: Director Harvey Reed also outlined his agency's ongoing efforts to hold down incarceration rates through community-based programming.

Mr. Reed said that for every dollar spent through the Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to Incarceration of Minors program, the state saved as much as \$57 compared to incarceration. (Redbook)

"The funding provided in this budget will allow us to continue to support this highly effective and fiscally responsible programming," he said.

While focusing on community-based programming as an alternative to incarceration, Mr. Reed said DYS has scaled down from six juvenile correctional facilities in 2010 to just three in 2016, with an average daily population of 500, plus another 300 on parole.

The decrease in population, however, has brought its own challenges, Mr. Reed said.

"This population decrease in our facilities has limited our ability to draw down federal funding for education services," he said. "This budget provides an increase of GRF dollars toward education to continue to offer a wide array of educational opportunities for our youth in facilities."

Chairman Rep. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) questioned the director on DYS' female population, 100% of which, Mr. Reed said, have a mental health diagnosis.

Mr. Reed said most of the girls in the DYS system have been victimized in some way. Some, he said, have been exposed to violence, human trafficking or both, and many became mothers at a young age.

"Most of our courts try everything they possibly can before they send them to us," he said.

House Speaker Names Task Force Chairs

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger on Tuesday announced the lawmakers who will chair his five task forces on various policy issues.

The panels, which will begin holding interested party meetings in April or May, could make recommendations to standing committees, the speaker said.

The panels include:

- Speaker's Task Force on Alzheimer's and Dementia: Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), chair
- Speaker's Task Force on HOPES (Heroin, Opioids, Prevention, Education and Safety): Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay), chair
- Speaker's Task Force on Energy Policy: Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati), chair
- Speaker's Task Force on Education and Poverty: Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima), chair
- Speaker's Task Force on BRAC and Military Affairs, Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek), chair

"These various task forces will provide us the opportunity to dive deeper into subject matters that affect Ohioans all across the state," Speaker Rosenberger said. "Each of them will work to find solutions to some of Ohio's most pressing issues and will collaborate with experts and interested parties to increase our understanding of these topics in order to forge a productive pathway forward."

Reps. Pelanda and Sprague have recently announced runs for statewide office, and Rep. Seitz already chairs the House Public Utilities Committee.

Other task force members and meeting schedules will be announced at a later date, the House Republican Caucus said.

Governor's Appointments

Sewage Treatment System Technical Advisory Committee: Matthew Lane of Columbus for a term beginning March 14, 2017 and ending December 31, 2018.

Miami University Board of Trustees: Rod Robinson of Mason for a term beginning March 14, 2017 and ending February 28, 2026.

Cleveland Municipal Court, Housing Division: Ronald J. O'Leary of Cleveland will assume the bench on April 10, 2017, and must run in November 2017 to retain the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends January 1, 2020. He replaces Judge Raymond L. Pianka, who passed away.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2017-007. Requested by Mahoning County Prosecuting Attorney Paul J. Gains. SYLLABUS:

R.C. 505.60(D) does not authorize a board of township trustees to reimburse a township officer or employee for out-of-pocket premiums attributable to health care coverage otherwise obtained for the officer or employee's immediate dependents when the officer or employee elects to participate in the township's health care plan, but elects not to participate in the township's health care plan for his immediate dependents.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, March 16

Criminal Sentencing Commission, Rm. 101, 65. S. Front St., Columbus, 10 a.m.


Tuesday, March 21

Air Quality Development Authority, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1718, Columbus, 9:30 a.m.

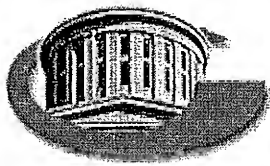
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Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, March 15

Legislative Committees

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Thompson, A., 644-8728), Rm. 018, 9 a.m.

- Public budget testimony

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Terhar, L.) To designate January 31 as "Omphalocoele Awareness Day." (1st 23 Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB MONTH DESIGNATION (Sprague, R.) To designate May as "Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month." (1st 45 Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB STEP THERAPY (Johnson, T., Antonio, N.) To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols 72 implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB PHARMACY SALES (Rezabek, J., Koehler, K.) To prohibit sales of dextromethorphan without a 73 prescription to persons under age 18. (1st Hearing-All testimony)

HB EPINEPHRINE DISPENSING (Merrin, D.) To authorize an epinephrine autoinjector substitution when a 101 prescription is filled or refilled, to authorize epinephrine to be dispensed without a prescription under a physician-established protocol, and to declare the act the "Epinephrine Accessibility Act." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance: Transportation Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. McColley, R., 466-3760), Rm. 311, 9 a.m.

- Testimony from Court of Claims, Public Defender and Department of Transportation

House Transportation & Public Safety (Committee Record) (Chr. Green, D., 644-6034), Rm. 017, 9 a.m.

HB LICENSE PLATES (Arndt, S., Gavarone, T.) To create the "Ohio National Guard Ohio Cross" license plate 76 and the "Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge" license plate. (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB LICENSE PLATE (Anielski, M.) To create the "Cuyahoga Valley Career Center" license plate. (1st 88 Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB BROAD NAMING (Lipps, S.) To designate a portion of State Route 73 in Warren County as the "Officer Bill 100 Johnson Memorial Highway." (1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB LICENSE PLATE DISPLAY (DeVitis, T.) To specify that failure to display a license plate on the front of a 71 motor vehicle that is required to display a front license plate is a secondary traffic offense and to establish a maximum fine of \$100 for such an offense. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB DISTRACTED DRIVING (Hughes, J., Seitz, B.) To establish an enhanced penalty for committing a 95 moving violation while distracted if the distraction is the apparent cause of the violation and to reenact

provisions of law that specified that certain electronic wireless communications device violations were allied offenses of similar import. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HB DRIVER'S LICENSES (Hambley, S., Rogers, J.) To authorize the issuance of an enhanced driver's license, 60 enhanced commercial driver's license, and enhanced identification card to facilitate land and sea border crossings between the United States and Canada and Mexico, pursuant to an agreement with the United States Department of Homeland Security. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, F., 466-4823), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

SB BRIDGE PROGRAM (Hoagland, F.) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of 6 fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HB TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to 26 transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. (4th Hearing-All testimony)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), Finance Hearing Rm., 9:45 a.m.

SJR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (Huffman, M.) Application to the Congress of the United States 1 for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Yuko, K.) To designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day." (3rd Hearing-All 62 testimony-Possible vote)

HB CASINO EMPLOYEES (Seitz, B.) To specify that the criminal penalty related to casino operators and 32 employees participating in casino gaming applies at their casino facility or an affiliated casino facility. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HB PUBLIC NOTICES (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and 34 other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB FISCAL EMERGENCIES (Terhar, L.) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning 88 and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB AGENCY REVIEWS (Jordan, K.) To require standing committees of the General Assembly to establish a 79 schedule for the periodic review and sunset of state departments that are currently in the Governor's cabinet, and to require that Auditor of State performance audits be scheduled to coincide with the periodic review. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 116, 10 a.m.

HB BWC BUDGET (Brinkman, T.) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, to make 27 appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

HB IC BUDGET (Brinkman, T.) To make appropriations for the Industrial Commission for the biennium 28 beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of Commission programs. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments, substitute & vote)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 10:30 a.m.

HBSPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special 18 election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBVOTER REGISTRATION (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law concerning challenges to voter registrations, 41 the appointment of observers, and the procedures for processing absent voter's ballots and for casting absent voter's ballots in person. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBRECORDS EXEMPTION (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain 8 information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBFUEL TAX DISPLAYS (Merrin, D.) To enact the "Fuel Tax Transparency Act" requiring stickers to be 70 placed on retail service station pumps displaying the rates of federal and state taxes applicable to gasoline and diesel fuel. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

- Presentation from the Legislative Service Commission regarding Higher Education

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-6344), Rm. 017, 1:30 p.m. or after session

- Testimony from Department of Administrative Services, Department of Taxation (if needed) and public testimony

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m.

House State & Local Government (Committee Record) (Chr. Anielski, M., 644-6041), Rm. 122, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HBSNOW REMOVAL (Arndt, S., Gavarone, T.) To authorize certain townships to require the removal of snow 39 and ice from sidewalks abutting property. (3rd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBDAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.) To designate May 24 as First Responders' Appreciation Day. (2nd 44 Hearing-All testimony)

HBSANITARIAN REVIEWS (Hill, B.) To require the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Health to 65 adopt rules governing reviews of registered sanitarians and sanitarians-in-training who conduct inspections of retail food establishments and food service operations. (3rd Hearing-Opponent & interested party)

HBTF DISTRICTS (Cupp, R.) To require reimbursement of certain township fire and emergency medical 69 service levy revenue forgone because of the creation of a municipal tax increment financing district. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HBMONTH DESIGNATION (Arndt, S., Patton, T.) To designate June as "Ohio Goes Boating Month." (2nd 84 Hearing-All testimony)

HBMONTH DESIGNATION (Sykes, E., Perales, R.) To designate February as "Teen Dating Violence 94 Awareness Month." (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

HBFISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (Reineke, B.) To modify the composition and powers of the 103 financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Civil Justice (Committee Record) (Chr. Butler, J., 644-6008), Rm. 113, 2:30 p.m. or after session

HB DEED SOLICITATION (Rezabek, J.) To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds. (3rd Hearing-All 52 testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Finance: Health & Human Services Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Romanchuk, M., 466-5082), Rm. 313, 3 p.m. or after session

- Public testimony on Developmental Disabilities, insurance and healthcare and Job & Family Services

House Finance: Higher Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Perales, R., 644-6020), Rm. 311, 3 p.m. or after session

- Budget testimony from Ohio Association of Career Colleges & Schools

House Finance: Primary & Secondary Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 121, 3 p.m. or after session

- Budget testimony from Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers; Ohio Coalition for Quality Education; Buckeye Charter School Boards; Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism and Coalition for Equity and Adequacy in School Funding

Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m.

- Superintendent Paolo DeMaria will give an overview of assessments

House Armed Services, Veterans Affairs & Homeland Security (Committee Record) (Chr. Johnson, T., 466-2124), Rm. 116, 4 p.m.

HB PROFESSIONAL LICENSES (Gavarone, T., Merrin, D.) To establish an expedited process to grant a 75 professional license to an individual who is on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States, or is the spouse of such an individual, and holds a valid license in another state. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HB EBT CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the 50 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)
Agency Calendar

BWC Board of Directors, Rm. 3, Level 2, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, 9 a.m. (The Audit Committee will meet from 9-10 a.m.; the Governance Committee 10-11 a.m.; the Investment Committee 11 a.m.-Noon; the Medical Services & Safety Committee 1-2 p.m.; and the Actuarial Committee 2-3:30 p.m. The Governance, Investment, and Actuarial Committee meetings may begin earlier if the preceding meeting adjourns earlier than scheduled.)

Casino Control Commission, State Room, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Release Compensation Board, Suite 1500, 50 W. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Savings and Loan Associations & Savings Banks Board, Ohio Bankers League, 4125 Worth Ave., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Graduation Requirements Workgroup, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 4 p.m.

Event Planner

News conference on launch of the FWD.us Ohio Coalition, Ladies Gallery, Statehouse, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Rep. Marlene Anielski (R-Walton Hills) fundraiser, OHROC, 21 W. Broad Street, Floor 7, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Friends of Marlene B. Anielski)

Sen. Sean O'Brien (D-Hubbard) fundraiser, Claddagh Irish Pub, 585 S. Front St., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Host - \$2,000; Sponsor - \$1,000; Friend - \$500 to Committee to Elect Sean J O'Brien)

Ohio Association of Community Colleges 2017 Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5 p.m.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) fundraiser, Claddagh, 585 S Front St #100e, Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$1,000 Event Chair | \$500 Event Sponsor | \$350 per Person to Friends of Bill Coley)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Plank's Café, 743 Parsons Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (\$2,500, \$1,500, \$1,000 or \$350 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Tell Congress: Give states more flexibility in the American Health Care Act

1 message

Ashley Varner <Avarner@alec.org>
Reply-To: Ashley Varner <Avarner@alec.org>
To: Sarah LaTourette <latoursm@gmail.com>

Wed, Mar 15, 2017 at 11:45 AM



Dear Representative LaTourette,

The deadline for amendments to the House health care bill is tomorrow at noon.

In advance of the deadline, **the State Policy Network and its members** drafted a letter to U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell regarding key concerns with the proposed Affordable Health Care Act. States have an important role to play as the key implementers of health care policy, and during the Obamacare debate, state legislators were not sufficiently consulted.

This is your opportunity to be heard. Please read and sign the letter linked below to make the states' voice heard.

Tell Congress: Give states more flexibility in the American Health Care Act

Thank you,
Ashley Varner

ALEC Action

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Your Weekly ALEC Digital Exchange ☒

1 message

American Legislative Exchange Council <kjohnson@alec.org>

Thu, Mar 16, 2017 at 12:00 PM

To: latoursm@gmail.com

To view this email as a web page, go here.



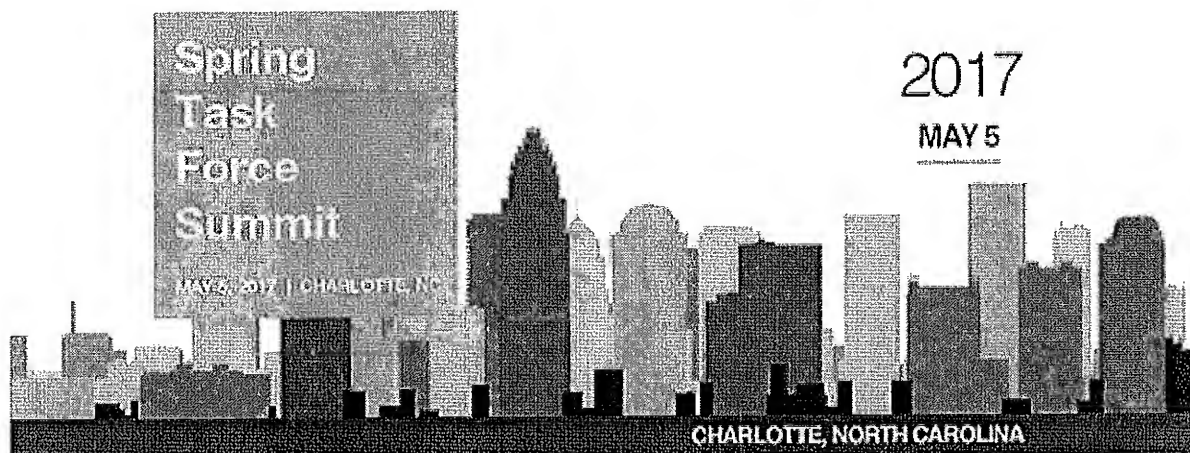
Digital Exchange - March 16, 2017



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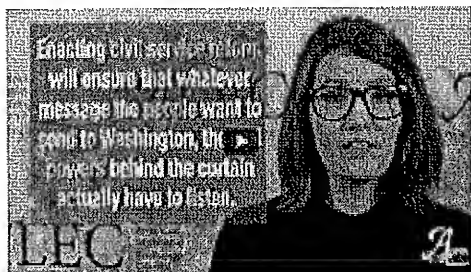
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Featured ALEC Publication

Civil Service Reform for the 21st Century: Restoring Democratic Accountability to the Administrative State

Center Point | Inez Feltscher Stepman



NEW PUBLICATION: Released yesterday, by the ALEC Center to Restore the Balance of Government, covers the political civil war between the Trump Administration and Obama - era employees - currently protected by more than a century old law that has expanded well beyond the origin of intent - derailing nearly any policy initiative the new president attempts to advance. Click here to find out more.



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Expert Insight

**Deep Dive for State Leaders:
Medicaid Reform in the American Healthcare Reform Act**Legislator Invitation | [Click Here to RSVP](#)

House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers invites you to join Members of Congress and state leaders for a short conference call this Friday, March 17th at 11:00 AM (EST). The American Health Care Act has many features that will both affect and empower states.

Agenda/Speakers

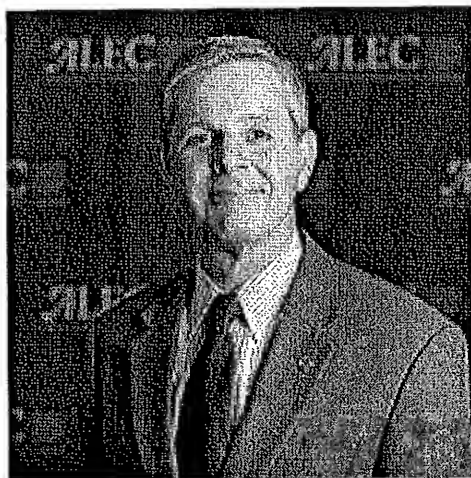
- **Welcome:** House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA)
- **About Medicaid Reforms:** Rep. Brett Guthrie, Energy and Commerce Committee (KY)
- **Q&A with Rep. Guthrie**
- **State Solutions in the New Framework:** Tarren Bragdon, Foundation for Government Accountability
- **Q&A with Tarren Bragdon**
- **(More Speakers TBA)**

When: Friday, March 17th, 11:00 - 12:00 AM (EST)**Where:** RSVP to receive conference call-in number**Invited:** State legislators, mayors, city council members and state think leaders[Click Here to RSVP](#)

Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Rep. Phil King (TX-61) | Chairman, ALEC Center for Innovation and Technology



Representative Phil King is currently serves in the Texas House of Representatives. He received his B.A. and M.B.A. from Dallas Baptist University and his J.D. from the Texas A&M University School of Law. Outside of his work in the legislature, Rep. King is a practicing attorney for the firm of Eggleston King, LLP. [Click here for the full bio.](#)



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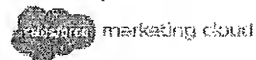


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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

ALEC HHS Task Force Model Policy Deadline

1 message

Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>
To: Mia Heck <mheck@alec.org>
Cc: Bartlett Cleland <bcleland@alec.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2017 at 5:24 PM

Dear Task Force members,

We are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting in Charlotte, NC Friday May 5. As a reminder, the deadline for submitting model policy to be considered at the next Health and Human Services Task Force meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday March 21 by close of business. If you have any questions on format or policy considerations please don't hesitate to contact me via cell or email.

Also, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shared a letter to Governor's from Secretary Price & newly confirmed CMS Administrator Seema Verma restating their commitment to partnering with states and listing key areas where they intend to focus on program improvements in the Medicaid program, as well as with the response to the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic. The letter is attached.

Important dates related to the next HHS Task Force meeting / Spring Task Force Summit:

- **March 21, 2017 COB** – 45-Day Policy Submission Deadline. *If you would like to introduce new model policy please send me the draft language by this day.*
- **March 31, 2017** – 35-Day Notice Published. *This will contain a draft of the Task Force Meeting Agenda and model policies scheduled for consideration and review at the Task Force Meeting.*
- **April 4, 2017** – Early Bird Registration Deadline.
- **April 11, 2017** – Housing Deadline.
- **May 5, 2016** – Task Force Meeting, Charlotte, NC.

To vote on model policies and engage in the important policy discussions, register for the Spring Task Force Summit at <https://www.alec.org/meeting/2017-spring-task-force-summit-charlotte-north-carolina/>. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your attention & warm regards,

Mia

Mia Heck, MBA

Director, Health and Human Services Task Force

7/25/2018

Gmail - ALEC HHS Task Force Model Policy Deadline

2900 Crystal Drive, Suite 600

Arlington, VA 22202

D 571.482.5022

M 210.284.0388



Upcoming Meetings:

2017 Spring Task Force Summit – May 5, 2017 – Charlotte, North Carolina

2017 Annual Meeting – July 19-21, 2017 – Denver, Colorado

2017 States and Nation Policy Summit – December 6-8, 2016 – Nashville, Tennessee

The American Legislative Exchange Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and is the largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators in the United States dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. The Council is governed by state legislators who comprise the National Board of Legislators and is advised by the Private Enterprise Advisory Council, a group of private, foundation and think tank members.



Secretary Price and CMS Administrator Verma Letter (2).pdf
1413K



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

Dear Governor:

We write to you to affirm our partnership in improving Medicaid and the lives of those it serves. Medicaid is a safety net program that provides life-saving medical care to millions of Americans facing some of the most challenging health circumstances. In addressing the diversity and complexity of Medicaid recipients, we have a duty to ensure the highest level of quality, accessibility, and choices for Americans who rely on the program. We also have an obligation to taxpayers to make sure Medicaid operates in a way that best serves the most vulnerable populations.

Today, there are significant impediments that stand in the way of achieving these goals. Rigid and outdated implementation and interpretation of federal rules and requirements hinder states from focusing on their most important job: ensuring Medicaid achieves positive health outcomes for vulnerable individuals and families. The federal framework for Medicaid has not kept pace with emerging evidence around the factors that drive improvements in health outcomes. It often fails to properly account for demographic and geographic considerations, as well as health system variables, which vary in degree from one state to the next. Despite the significant investment by states and the federal government, the results should be better.

The expansion of Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to non-disabled, working-age adults without dependent children was a clear departure from the core, historical mission of the program. Moreover, by providing a much higher federal reimbursement rate for the expansion population, the ACA provided states with an incentive to deprioritize the most vulnerable populations. The enhanced rate also puts upward pressure on both state and federal spending. We are going to work with both expansion and non-expansion states on a solution that best uses taxpayer dollars to serve the truly vulnerable.

Today, we commit to ushering in a new era for the federal and state Medicaid partnership where states have more freedom to design programs that meet the spectrum of diverse needs of their Medicaid population. We wish to empower all states to advance the next wave of innovative solutions to Medicaid's challenges—solutions that focus on improving quality, accessibility, and outcomes in the most cost-effective manner. States, as administrators of the program, are in the best position to assess the unique needs of their respective Medicaid-eligible populations and to drive reforms that result in better health outcomes.

As we break down the barriers to support state initiatives aimed at continuously improving the health outcomes for their Medicaid population, we remain committed to certain mechanisms, which ensure state accountability for the outcomes produced by the Medicaid program. For example, budget neutrality for waivers and demonstration projects remains an important policy for protecting the long-term sustainability of the program for states and the federal government,

and state waiver and demonstration requests will continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Similarly, reasonable public input processes and transparency guidelines provide states an opportunity to consider the views of Medicaid enrollees and stakeholders and gather input that may support continuous improvement of the program.

Some of the key areas where we will improve collaboration with states and move towards more effective program management are described below.

Improve Federal and State Program Management

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to engaging with states in a bilateral process to make the State Plan Amendment approval process more transparent, efficient, and less burdensome. Additionally, we aim to improve the process and speed to facilitate expedited—or “fast-track”—approval of waiver and demonstration project extensions. We also endeavor to be more consistent in evaluating and incorporating state requests for specific waivers and demonstration project approaches that have already received approval in another state. Finally, we plan to conduct a full review of managed care regulations in order to prioritize beneficiary outcomes and state priorities.

Support Innovative Approaches to Increase Employment and Community Engagement

Today, we reaffirm the agency’s commitment to support and complement the various federal, state, and local programs that have demonstrated success in assisting eligible low-income adult beneficiaries to improve their economic standing and materially advance in an effort to rise out of poverty. The best way to improve the long-term health of low-income Americans is to empower them with skills and employment. It is our intent to use existing Section 1115 demonstration authority to review and approve meritorious innovations that build on the human dignity that comes with training, employment and independence.

Align Medicaid and Private Insurance Policies for Non-Disabled Adults

States may also consider creating greater alignment between Medicaid’s design and benefit structure with common features of commercial health insurance, to help working age, non-pregnant, non-disabled adults prepare for private coverage. These state-led reforms could include, as allowed by law:

- Alternative benefit plan designs and cost-sharing models, including consumer-directed health care with Health Savings Account-like features, for individuals at all income levels;
- Facilitating enrollment in affordable employer-sponsored health insurance options;
- Reasonable, enforceable premium or contribution requirements, with appropriate protections for high-risk populations;
- Initiatives designed to break down the barriers that prevent families from being together on the same plan;
- Waivers of non-emergency transportation benefit requirements;
- Expanded options to design emergency room copayments to encourage the use of primary and other non-emergency providers for non-emergency medical care; and
- Waivers of enrollment and eligibility procedures that do not promote continuous coverage, such as presumptive eligibility and retroactive coverage.

Provide Reasonable Timelines and Processes for Home and Community-Based Services Transformation

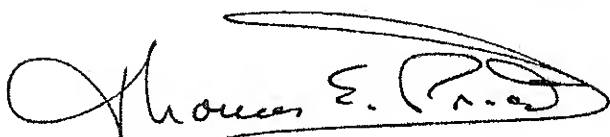
CMS has worked with our state partners and other stakeholders to implement provisions of the final regulation defining a home and community-based setting. In recognition of the significance of the reform efforts underway, CMS will work toward providing additional time for states to comply with the January 16, 2014, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) rule. Additionally, we will be examining ways in which we can improve our engagement with states on the implementation of the HCBS rule, including greater state involvement in the process of assessing compliance of specific settings.

Provide States with More Tools to Address the Opioid Epidemic

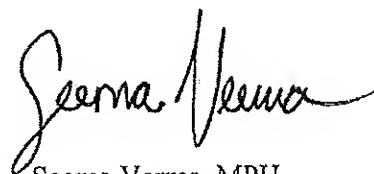
We are committed to ensuring that states have the tools they need to combat the growing opioid epidemic that is devastating families and communities. In recognition of the urgent need to improve access to comprehensive substance abuse treatment, we will continue to work with states to improve care for individuals struggling with addiction under their Medicaid state plans and through the Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program to improve their substance abuse treatment delivery systems. In addition, under recent regulatory changes, states may now make managed care capitation payments for individuals with Institutions for Mental Disease stays of 15 days or less within a month. We will continue to explore additional opportunities for states to provide a full continuum of care for people struggling with addiction and develop a more streamlined approach for Section 1115 substance abuse treatment demonstration opportunities. We look forward to building upon initial efforts, including previous collaborations amongst the states.

We intend for this to be the beginning of a discussion on how we can revamp the federal and state Medicaid partnership to effectively and efficiently improve health outcomes. We look forward to partnering with you in the years ahead to deliver on our shared goals of providing high quality, sustainable, health care to those who need it most.

Yours truly,



Thomas E. Price, M.D.
Secretary



Seema Verma, MPH
CMS Administrator



Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Sarah, check out the state of states in the USA

1 message

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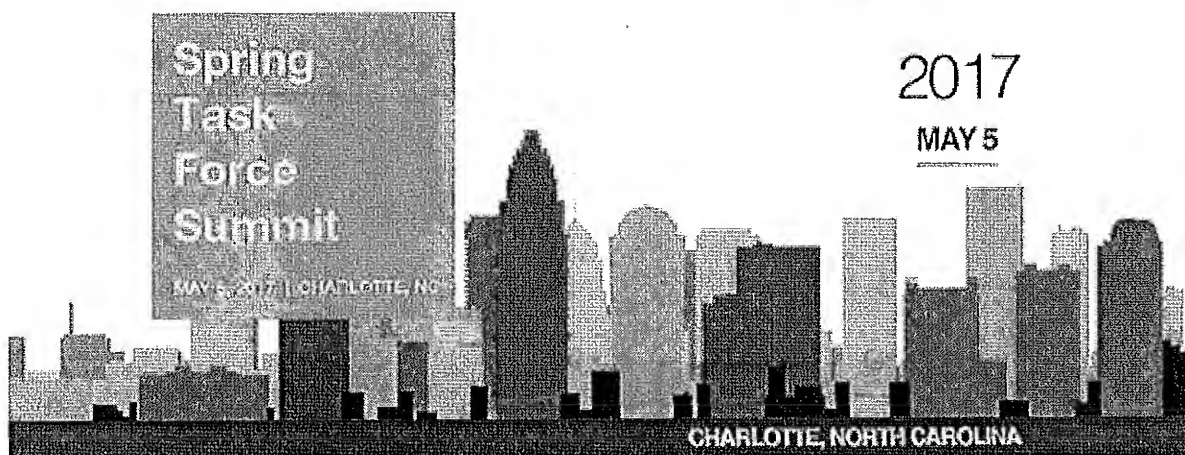
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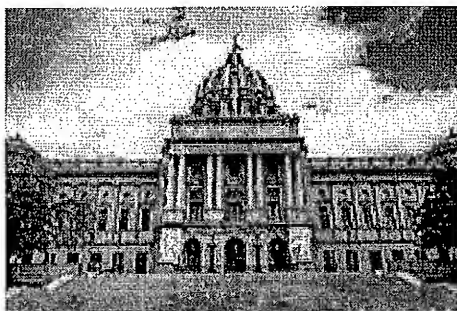


Forward

Northern State Analysis

State of the State: Pennsylvania

State of the State | Justin Leventhal | Joel Griffith



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Governor Tom Wolf calls for \$2 billion in spending cuts rather than tax hikes to remedy structural deficit. Click here to find what's happening in states in your region.



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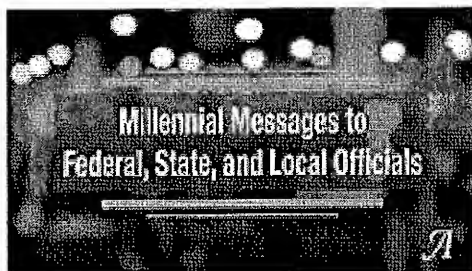


Forward

Constituent Insight

Millennials Have a Message for Federal, State, and Local Officials

CPAC 2017 | A Sarah Wood Production



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Millennials attending CPAC gave ALEC a message to pass on to Federal, State, and Local Officials-calling for a decrease in regulation an increase in the weight of public opinion in legislative proceedings. Click here to find out what young constituents are saying in your District.



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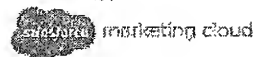
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House & Senate Floor Reports

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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

HCR 7

BANKING LAWS (Sheehy, M., Ramos, D.)
To urge the Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation that would reinstate the separation of commercial and investment banking function that was in effect under the Glass-Steagall Act.

HCR 8

MINER PROTECTION (Cera, J.)
To urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Miners Protection Act of 2017.

INTRODUCED

HB 134

SCHOOL GRANTS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)
To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

HB 135

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)
To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

HB 136**ROAD NAMING (Arndt, S.)**

To designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway."

HB 137**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.)**

To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect.

HB 138**WAGE DISCRIMINATION (Smith, K., Boyd, J.)**

To require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to establish a system for individuals to make anonymous complaints regarding employers discriminating in the payment of wages.

HB 139**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (Perales, R., Keller, C.)**

To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation.

HB 140**ROAD NAMING (Green, D.)**

To designate a portion of State Route 32 in Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King Memorial Highway."

HB 141**INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (Dever, J., Wiggam, S.)**

To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense.

HB 142**CONCEALED WEAPONS (Wiggam, S.)**

To eliminate the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

HB 143**ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.)**

To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes.

HB 144**WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (Green, D., Rogers, J.)**

To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

HB 145**CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)**

To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency.

HB 146**DEATH CERTIFICATES (Householder, L.)**

To allow a coroner to change the cause, manner, and mode of death in a filed death certificate only after a hearing in the court of common pleas.

HB 147**HUMANE SOCIETIES (Hambley, S.)**

To make changes to humane society law and to make humane society agents subject to bribery law.

CALENDAR FOR COMING SESSION

SB 23**DAY DESIGNATION (Terhar, L.)**

To designate January 31 as "Omphalocele Awareness Day."

HB 12**OFFICIAL STATE STRUCTURE (Gonzales, A.)**

To designate the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state.

HB 52**DEED SOLICITATION (Rezabek, J.)**

To regulate the solicitation of certain deeds.

HB 100**ROAD NAMING (Lipps, S.)**

To designate a portion of State Route 73 in Warren County as the "Officer Bill Johnson Memorial Highway."

REFERRED

Community & Family Advancement

HB 126

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (Boyd, J., Rezabek, J.)
To require a region-based kinship caregiver navigator program.

Criminal Justice

HB 125

COURT JURISDICTIONS (Craig, H., Seitz, B.)
To specify the jurisdiction of municipal and county courts over municipal traffic ordinances and to establish requirements governing fines, fees, or other charges for traffic violations and infractions imposed by a municipal corporation that does not have the authority to establish a mayor's court.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 127

STEEL WELDING (Perales, R., Dever, J.)
To establish in the Ohio Building Code requirements pertaining to structural steel welding and bridge welding.

HB 128

BUILDING INSPECTIONS (Roegner, K.)
To permit a general contractor or owner of specified buildings to enter into a contract with a third-party private inspector or a certified building department for building inspection and to make other changes relating to building inspections.

Energy & Natural Resources

HB 130

ROYALTY STATEMENTS (Cera, J.)
To require the owner of an oil or gas well to provide a royalty statement to the holder of the royalty interest when the owner makes payment to the holder.

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

SB 29

BANKING LAW (Coley, B., Oelslager, S.)
For the purpose of enacting a new banking law for the State of Ohio.

Government Accountability & Oversight

SB 10**PRIMARY ELECTIONS (LaRose, F.)**

To expand the circumstances under which a board of elections or the secretary of state is not required to hold a primary election.

HB 123**LENDING LAWS (Koehler, K., Ashford, M.)**

To modify the Short-Term Loan Act, to specify a minimum duration requirement for loans made under the Small Loan Law and Mortgage Loan Law, and to limit the authority of credit services organizations to broker extensions of credit for buyers.

State & Local Government**HB 122****ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Hambley, S., Rogers, J.)**

To establish a Regional Economic Development Alliance Study Committee to study the benefits and challenges involved in creating regional economic development alliances.

HB 129**EDUCATION EXTERNSHIP (Smith, K., Kelly, B.)**

To require the Governor to complete a forty-hour externship consisting of on-site work experience in city, local, and exempted village school districts in the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years.

Ways & Means**HB 124****TAX LEVIES (Brenner, A., Carfagna, R.)**

To authorize a joint vocational school district to submit the question of a renewal tax levy to voters who did not have an opportunity to vote on the levy at an election held in November of 2015 because the levy was only placed on the ballot in one of several counties in which the district has territory.

HOUSE SPEAKER'S APPOINTMENTS

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY ADVANCEMENT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE ASHFORD; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE BARNES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE PATMON; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE CELEBREZZE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCE, AND LABOR: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE HOUSEHOLDER; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE LIPPS

FEDERALISM AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE BARNES; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE ASHFORD

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE REECE; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE SWEENEY

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE HOUSEHOLDER; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE RYAN

TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE PATMON; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE REECE

WAYS AND MEANS: REMOVE REPRESENTATIVE BARNES; APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE PATMON

OHIO CONSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION COMMISSION: REP. CRAIG

SENATE ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCED

SB 103

EMERGENCY PROGRAMS (Coley, B.)

To permit a board of county commissioners, as an alternative to entering into an agreement to establish a countywide emergency management agency, to enter into a contract of not longer than four years with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority to implement a countywide emergency management program.

SB 104

SCHOOL SECLUSION (Tavares, C.)

To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools.

SB 105

MONTH DESIGNATION (Tavares, C.)

To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month."

SMOKING (Tavares, C.)

SB 106

To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is a passenger.

SB 107

VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.)
To provide that any nondriver identification card that is issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date.

SB 108

MONTH DESIGNATION (Tavares, C.)
To designate the month of June as "Pride Month."

SB 109

MEDICAL INFORMATION (Tavares, C.)
To establish the "Yellow Dot" motor vehicle medical information program within the Department of Public Safety.

SB 110

HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.)
To require a health care professional to wear identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient.

SB 111

SCHOOL ZONES (Tavares, C.)
To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation.

SB 112

INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (Schiavoni, J.)
To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an appropriation.

SB 113

FUEL TAX (Coley, B.)
To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state per-gallon motor fuel tax of \$.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax.

SCR 5

HEALTH LAW (Jordan, K.)
To urge Congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act and to recommend that future federal health care policies pursue free market solutions, restore

power to patients, health care providers, and the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

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OHIO REPORT TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Sides Stake Positions On Energy Standards Bill As Committee Vote Looms

Medicaid Managed Care Plans Say They're Ready For Increased Caseload

OMA, Policy Matters Question Tax Shifting, Income Tax Cut In Budget Testimony

Tax Commissioner Addresses Lingering Questions From Agency Review Subcommittee

AG Director Opposes Bill On Food Service Inspection Rules, Cites Threat To Food Safety

Professors Follow Universities' Leads In Pushing Back On Budget Proposals

Western Governors University Seeks State Designation

Psychologists Protest Budget Plan To Consolidate State Board

Public Works Prepared To Handle Increased Funding For Local Transportation Projects, Director Says

Bill Proposes Higher Vehicle Registration Fee In Exchange For Fuel Tax Cut

Audit Finds More Than \$20,000 In Illegal Spending At Community Correctional Facility

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Senate Committee Hearings

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

Judiciary

House Committee Hearings

Financial Institutions, Housing & Urban Development

Ways & Means

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

Criminal Justice

State & Local Government

Public Utilities

Federalism & Interstate Relations

Education & Career Readiness

Finance: Health & Human Services Sub.

Finance: Transportation Sub.

Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub.

Finance: Higher Education Sub.

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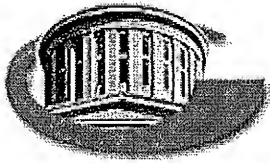
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Volume #86, Report #54 -- Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Sides Stake Positions On Energy Standards Bill As Committee Vote Looms

Environmental groups, renewable energy businesses and others turned out in droves Tuesday to voice opposition to fast-tracked legislation to render Ohio's renewable energy standards unenforceable goals.

Proponents, meanwhile, argued that the mandates are unnecessary and that the bill (HB 114) wouldn't negatively impact clean energy jobs.

The House Public Utilities Committee is on track to vote the measure out of committee March 29, according to Chairman Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati). He said the committee will meet Wednesday next week after session instead of at its normal Tuesday meeting time.

The measure would therefore have to hit the House floor for a chamber vote during the March 30 if-needed session if House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) is to realize his goal of voting the measure out next week.

During the bill's second hearing Tuesday, 37 opponents submitted testimony - most of them in writing only - on the bill. The roster was similar to the entities that gave hours of testimony in December on a less far-reaching bill on the same subject matter than was ultimately vetoed by Gov. John Kasich. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 8, 2016)

Their main argument against the bill is the same as the one they fired at the bill's predecessor (HB554, 131st General Assembly): that it will drive away potential economic investment by injecting additional uncertainty into the market.

"Ohio has a lot to lose in the way of economic development as a result of this sort of policy uncertainty," Apex Clean Energy President and CEO Mark Goodwin said.

"With the expiration of the RPS freeze and resumption of the standards this year, Ohio is again positioned to be an all-of-the-above energy leader and an attractive place to do business," he added. "By functionally moving the RPS standards to voluntary goals, and again changing the rules of the game, HB114 would only heighten uncertainty in Ohio's investment climate."

But proponents fought back against the idea the bill would cost clean energy jobs, with Americans For Prosperity-Ohio State Director Micah Derry telling Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) that claim is a "logical fallacy."

Six entities submitted proponent testimony, arguing that companies are already striving to meet the benchmarks because the market is incentivizing them. The mandates, they said, are therefore unnecessary. Others submitting proponent testimony included the Ohio Christian Alliance, the Ohio Energy Group, API-Ohio, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio and the Ohio Coal Association.

"Mandating certain measures over others is picking winners and losers, using dollars to meet quotas rather than installing technologies that truly work," API-Ohio Executive Director Chris Zeigler said. "Ohio companies need the freedom to constantly evaluate their energy choices. Mandates act as anti-competitive measures that must be met without regard to the most effective measure that a company may select."

The hearing was the latest step toward a potential rematch between Republican lawmakers and Gov. Kasich, who last week signaled he would again veto any attempt to water down the standards. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 13, 2017](#)) And Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said last week he's uncertain what kind of reception the bill will receive in the upper chamber. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 17, 2017](#))

In their testimony, opponents also criticized the expanded opt-out provisions in the bill. The bill would permit any customer to opt out of any rider or recovery mechanism to cover renewable energy costs. And it would expand the industrial opt-out to include customers using 700,000 kilowatt hours per year.

"Allowing the lion's share of the industrial (and likely commercial) class to opt out means that utilities will have to scale back their industrial efficiency programs, depriving not just those customers, but all Ohioans, of valuable cost savings," Natural Resources Defense Council Staff Attorney Samantha Williams wrote in testimony. "At the same time, the industrial customers will be benefiting from energy savings produced by residential and small business customers. That seems inequitable."

Sam Randazzo, general counsel for proponent Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, said the streamlined opt-out expansion would allow the largest electricity users "to get out of the way of Ohio's" standards. He also welcomed the bill's expansion of what counts as energy efficiency.

"The streamlined opt-out mechanism requires an adjustment in the energy efficiency and peak demand reduction compliance baselines so that the compliance obligation associated with the opt-out customers' kilowatt-hours or kilowatt demand is not shifted to other customers," Mr. Randazzo testified.

Mr. Randazzo agreed with [Rep. Keith Faber](#) (R-Celina) that an opt-in system for ratepayers would be a more effective mechanism for these programs. Why, in that case, would lawmakers not permit residential customers opt-out ability? Rep. Faber responded.

Ohio Consumers' Counsel Bruce Weston, who opposes the bill, proposed that lawmakers implement an annual limit on the amount utilities may charge customers for energy efficiency program costs, utility profits, and lost revenues.

He said the bill as written would permit utilities to charge customers for shared savings even in years the company had no energy efficiency programs.

"This means higher charges would result without a corresponding value to consumers," Mr. Weston wrote in his testimony. "The bill should prohibit utilities from collecting profits from customers in a year in which the utility relied on its 'banked' energy savings to meet the statutory benchmark."

Religious groups also joined the debate, with Ohio Christian Alliance President Chris Long saying the "wind and solar energy experience is being carried on the backs of" single mothers, families and seniors. But Ohio Christian Coalition State Director Tyler Duvelius argued energy efficiency programs "put more money back into the pockets of Ohio ratepayers."

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Buckeye Institute and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance submitted interested party testimony.

As the afternoon wore on, opponent groups released statements further decrying the bill and its potential impact on Ohio's economy. The Ohio Conservative Energy Forum said the bill "falls short" and is a "rehash" of years of failed efforts to repeal the standards.

"While some in the legislature continue to rehash the same debate that has continued now for more than four years, Ohio continues to lose out on economic development opportunities," the group said.

And a coalition of large businesses such as Nestle and Whirlpool, which is represented by Ceres, said, "Ohio's clean energy standards enjoy significant support from the business community."

"This new bill will only create prolonged uncertainty for businesses and investors operating in the state," Ceres President Mindy Lubber said on behalf of the coalition. "Ohio lawmakers should dismiss this legislation and protect Ohio's clean energy economy."

Subscribers Note: For full testimony, see the [committee's website](#) under March 21.

Medicaid Managed Care Plans Say They're Ready For Increased Caseload

Representatives of the state's Medicaid managed care plans told a House panel Tuesday they are prepared to handle an added workload proposed in the executive budget.

The budget proposal ([HB 49](#)) calls for nearly all remaining Medicaid populations to move into managed care, including long-term care.

Opponents of that change have cited problems providers faced with receiving payments and getting paid on time through the MyCare Ohio program, a demonstration project for people enrolled in both Medicaid and Medicare. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 14, 2017](#))

The six Medicaid managed care plans told the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services that their work can improve quality and care coordination and that they expect a smoother transition than happened with MyCare.

Tracy Davidson, CEO of the United Healthcare Community Plan of Ohio, said the cause of problems with payments in the MyCare program partly stems from the loss of a claims clearinghouse days before the program's launch.

"As an industry, we learned a great deal from that experience and developed systems and processes to ensure non-traditional Medicaid providers are reimbursed appropriately and in a timely fashion while saving them money they would have normally had to spend on clearinghouse services," she said.

[Rep. Emilia Sykes](#) (D-Akron) said the budget proposes moving long-term care, behavioral health and the Children with Medical Handicaps program into managed care, and that it could pose a burden for the plans.

"It seems that there are three very complex populations that all require different levels of needs of plans at the same time," she said.

Anthony Evans, senior vice president of integrated care at CareSource, said his plan has learned from problems that arose during the MyCare implementation, and does not expect those to happen again.

Chairman [Rep. Mark Romanchuk](#) (R-Mansfield) said he has heard that some providers are still having problems receiving timely payments.

Miranda Motter, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Health Plans, said the proposal to move Medicaid managed long-term services and supports into managed care is not the same as MyCare. The MyCare program, she said, was a federal partnership, and many of the problems stem from federal requirements.

"A large part of those challenges that resulted was really a part of that federal overlay," she said.

Rep. Romanchuk said he has not seen data showing that the managed care in MyCare has improved quality outcomes for patients, and asked the plans to provide information on the quality results for patients.

Steve Wermuth, network manager for the Ohio Aging Services Network, said many of the problems with MyCare came from inefficiencies rooted in the fee for service system that were included in MyCare. Those included slow authorizations due to paperwork, he said.

Mr. Wermuth, whose group represents a network of long-term care facilities, said managed care, if done properly, can be beneficial to the facilities. MyCare, he said, includes more than 100,000 members out of the state's 180,000 dual-eligible people.

"This is not a demonstration project, it's a transition project," he said. "When you look at how many people are involved in it, this isn't a sample. It's the next movement."

David Parker, general manager of the central division of HCR ManorCare's skilled nursing and rehabilitation operations, said the payment times for MyCare remain long - 130 average days to pay versus 65 days for Medicaid fee for service.

"HCR ManorCare is not opposed to outsourcing to the private sector, but they should be held to the same standard of performance as a government agency," he said. "We should allow the demonstration period to run its course, evaluate defined and agreeable data to determine success or failure, and then determine next steps of action as partners."

Asked by Rep. Romanchuk if it was any particular managed care plan that he had struggles with, he said it was with all, but all are improving.

"I think all are improving, I really do, but I don't think we're there yet," he said. "If we roll it out as a demonstration process in 2014 through '19, why are we jumping in now?"

OMA, Policy Matters Question Tax Shifting, Income Tax Cut In Budget Testimony

Interested parties on Tuesday voiced concern about so-called "tax shifting" and additional income tax cuts in the executive budget proposal.

The Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Policy Matters Ohio and a Summit County business owner appeared before the House Ways & Means Committee during the budget bill's (HB 49) sixth informal hearing before the committee.

Also submitting written testimony were the Ohio Premium Cigar and Pipe Association and the Ohio Township Association.

A major concern from OMA involves the aforementioned tax shifting, which critics have said is the means by which the governor is proposing to fund his proposal to reduce personal income taxes by \$3.127 billion over two years for a \$39 million net tax cut. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2017)

OMA Tax Counsel Mark Engel said such tax shifting is not beneficial and is counterproductive to both businesses and consumers.

"Rather, if income tax rates are to be reduced further, exclusions and exemptions from the personal income tax ought to be reexamined," he said. "If rates are reduced, the need for those exclusions and exemptions disappears. This would provide a broader base and a lower rate for all taxpayers, reduce overall taxes and avoid the problems of tax shifting."

Mr. Engel also urged lawmakers to maintain a low Commercial Activity Tax rate and to limit the number of exemptions. He said the group is pleased the budget is not calling for a large expansion of sales taxes for certain business services, but said the group is wary about potential future sales tax increases.

"OMA applauds recent efforts, including House Bill 49, to reduce Ohio's personal income tax rates and collapse the number of income tax brackets," he said. "However, OMA is concerned when those efforts have typically been tied to a proposal to increase the sales tax."

PMO Research Director Zach Schiller said the budget does not adequately fund schools or public transit. "In short, we are underinvesting in key services that will allow our state to thrive and Ohioans to succeed. We need

more revenue," he said.

He said the budget does have some "positive elements," such as increasing the severance tax - a proposal Republican lawmakers have promised to remove.

But he said that as a whole "Gov. Kasich's tax proposal would further reinforce the shift in Ohio's state and local tax system in favor of affluent residents and against those with lower or middle incomes."

He called reducing the number of income brackets a "solution in search of a problem" since the number of brackets is not linked to economic performance.

"Does anyone believe there are fewer successful start-up businesses in California because its state income tax has 10 brackets, more than the nine in Ohio?" he asked. "Among the seven states that have had a flat, one-rate tax for the last decade, three have shown better job performance than the nation as a whole. But four have lagged behind - and those four happen to be the ones most similar to Ohio: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania."

Rep. Jack Cera (D-Bellaire) questioned the proposed income tax cut given the state's recent economic performance, underperforming tax collections and Gov. Kasich's December remark the state was on the "verge of a recession." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 6, 2016)

Mr. Schiller said Ohio is not alone in having a revenue shortfall. And he acknowledged he can't prove a negative in the form of Republicans' argument that the economy would have fared even worse without tax cuts in recent years.

"What we can say, though, is that when we saw these tax cuts approved over a period of 12 years we were told this would lead to greater economic growth and jobs," he said. "The data available to us show that Ohio is underperformed the nation that it will continue to underperform the nation. In the meantime we're losing giant amounts of revenue, most of it went to people that don't need it."

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) asked how the witness can be so confident he tax cuts will not be reflected in future investments.

"I think what is often ignored in tax policy is what could we be doing in \$3 billion in tax cuts we've been getting since 2005?" Mr. Schiller replied. "\$3 billion is a lot of money and it could do a lot to educate our people. ... We have alternate uses to which this money could and should be put."

John Green, who owns a business called Cafe O'Play, testified in support of the budget. He said he has to pay taxes in anywhere from four to nine municipalities depending on his staffing. As a result, he said he favors the governor's proposal to centralize municipal tax collections.

"While I only have one location now and only pay net business profit tax to one municipality, expansion is part of our long term plan. If I were to expand to other locations it would add another layer to our taxes," he said. "I think the proposal, in the governor's budget, for simplifying the complicated filing system for municipal tax on net profits makes very good sense from my perspective and would make expansion easier for us."

And he praised Gov. Kasich's budget provision that would require teachers to shadow someone in the business community every five years to renew their license. The idea has drawn opposition from teachers and Democrats.

Subscribers Note: For full testimony see the [committee's website](#) under March 21.

Tax Commissioner Addresses Lingering Questions From Agency Review Subcommittee

Tax Commissioner Joe Testa returned to the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government & Agency Review Tuesday to address several outstanding questions previously posed by members.

Mr. Testa's supplemental budget (HB 49) testimony, following up on questions raised during his appearance before the committee earlier this month, touched on everything from the Department of Taxation's personnel expenditures to municipal complaints about the Ohio Business Gateway. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 14, 2017)

He explained that although the Department of Taxation has reduced its full-time equivalent employment by 30% since FY 2011, the average FTE expense has steadily increased, rising from \$77,500 to \$99,500 per FTE. Total payroll costs, he said, have therefore increased despite the reduction.

He also addressed questions on the cost of: securing ODT data, purchasing supplies and equipment over the next biennium, and spending for the ODT's California office. (Written Answers)

Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson), given the continued operation of the ODT's Los Angeles office, questioned whether the shuttered New York and Chicago ODT offices were losing money.

"Certainly we didn't feel they were cost-effective," Mr. Testa said. "Whether they were losing money I don't know if it can say that, but we can pull out the data."

Rep. Patterson said he was "astounded" by the quantity of security software purchased by ODT in recent years. Calling the purchases "diligent," he asked whether there have been security breaches in the past.

"It's safe to say no breaches," Mr. Testa said. ODT Deputy Director of IT Mark Walker said he could not point to any instance in which a program or system was scrapped because of security inefficiencies.

ODT spent a cumulative \$2.47 million on IT security measures over the last four years, according to the department's figures. Responding to Rep. Jim Butler (R-Oakwood), Mr. Testa said those are cumulative figures for programs that remain in place even after the year of purchase.

Chairman Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) asked why FY2017's IT security spending nearly doubled from the prior year -- moving from \$405,759 in FY 2016 to \$855,394.

"What we implemented was a more robust tool within our network which is able to identify when we're under attack," Mr. Walker said.

Mr. Walker agreed with Rep. Faber that those programs should be paid for with operating funds rather than capital dollars. But he and Mr. Testa were unable to immediately provide the amount of funding ODT is requesting for that line item under the proposed budget.

Rep. Faber asked the director to provide that information to the subcommittee in the future. He also continued pressing the commissioner on municipal concerns that the Ohio Business Gateway is unprepared to handle the added workload that would result from a budget provision mandating centralized municipal business income tax collections.

"If Ohio Business Gateway was anywhere near as broken as some would have you think, we would be the first to know," Mr. Testa said.

Responding to a question from Rep. Theresa Gavarone (R-Bowling Green), the tax commissioner said the municipal tax plan would help businesses by going from 600 sets of regulations to one.

Following several other questions from members citing various concerns from cities about the centralized collection provision, Mr. Testa told Rep. Faber that he could assure cities that OBG would be able to handle the new task.

Regarding complaints over the plans for quarterly disbursements from the state, ODT informed panelists that while third-party groups that currently do the work for some cities can provide them monthly payments, most revenue comes from quarterly estimated payments.

Mr. Testa said in response to another question from Rep. Faber that the proposed 1% fee could be reduced in the future.

Melinda Frank, income tax administrator for the city of Columbus, testified in opposition and pushed back on several points made by the administration over the last few weeks regarding centralized tax collections. (Testimony)

Among other points, she questioned the data used by the administration to back its argument that most cities would save money by paying the state 1% to administer the tax. Her comments were in line with previous concerns raised by municipalities that the OBG is unable to handle the increased workload and that the mandate's 1% collection fee would drive up costs for cities. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 7, 2017)

"The validity of the information provided to this subcommittee and to the House Ways and Means Committee with regard to costs to administer the income tax in each of 96 municipalities is questionable at best, and for those communities that include the amount of refunds issued in their reported expenditures, just flat out wrong," she said.

"Utilizing numbers found in reports without knowledge of the basis of those numbers yielded results used in support of the position proposed by H.B. 49 that administration and collection of the municipal net profits tax by the Department of Taxation would be more cost effective for municipalities."

Ms. Frank also raised concerns that cities would lose any standing regarding municipal income taxes, because the way the bill is written they would in essence be replaced by a new state tax based on municipal rates.

"There is no ability for a municipality to audit, no ability to question a filing or a refund request, no ability to question or appeal a finding of the State Commissioner. As it is not a municipal tax, there is no basis to allow municipalities to view filings or verify any information provided by the taxpayer," she said.

Ms. Frank, as other city representatives have stated, also criticized the proposal's impacts on cash flow and the forced use of the OBG. She remarked that the city would never recoup the first quarter delay in payments to the city and asked that all of the muni tax-related language regarding centralized collections be removed from the bill.

Worthington City Council President Bonnie Michael said in written testimony that the budget provisions would cost Worthington about \$23,000 in additional fees.

AG Director Opposes Bill On Food Service Inspection Rules, Cites Threat To Food Safety

Department of Agriculture Director David Daniels on Tuesday testified in opposition to a bill revising the state's evaluation methods for sanitarians.

While the administration is always open to ways it can improve operations and become more business-friendly, he said the bill (HB 65) as written does neither. (Testimony)

ODA and the Department of Health are legally required to evaluate local boards of health, including local sanitarians' skills at inspecting restaurants and grocery stores, he said.

"Proponents of this legislation have argued our evaluations take too long and negatively impact businesses. I submit our evaluations take as long as necessary to properly inspect a facility and keep people safe," Mr. Daniels said.

Mr. Daniels told the panel that many local health districts are not meeting the food code requirements, thus putting consumers at risk. In regard to focusing on critical violations, Mr. Daniels explained that it is important that food safety inspections must focus on identifying all violations.

The director said the agency found portions of the bill to be unclear and ambiguous. On one hand, proponents of the bill claim the bill would raise the bar for health surveys by requiring sanitarians to identify 90% of critical violations, he said. However, ODA believes this language could be interpreted to allow sanitarians to observe as low as 20% of all critical violations.

"We have worked in good faith and made changes to the way evaluations are conducted and what's expected. What's being asked of us in this legislation is a step too far and, frankly, it's a threat to food safety," Mr. Daniels told the panel.

In response to bill sponsor Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville), Mr. Daniels said that the benchmarks laid out in the bill for identifying critical violations are too low. Rep. Hill replied that this is not the intent of the bill, rather it is meant to increase the benchmarks.

Mr. Daniels said that while critical violations pose a more immediate threat, the overall sanitary conditions of a facility could be equally as hazardous.

He added that ODA has been flexible with noncritical violations that can be easily corrected, thus the overemphasis on critical violations in the bill is going too far.

Rep. Hill replied that he believes that outbreaks of foodborne illnesses in Ohio typically occur at unregulated events, such as church picnics and potlucks. He told Mr. Daniels that he does believe the majority of the blame for outbreaks should lie with local sanitarians, who are very educated and qualified individuals.

Mr. Daniels told the panel that one thing that strikes him most about the bill is that what is laid out is largely what already happens.

Rep. Hill said that he agrees they share the goals of trying to help Ohio businesses to move forward, but that there needs to be away to change the attitude of inspections and focus more on improvement.

Professors Follow Universities' Leads In Pushing Back On Budget Proposals

Professors on Tuesday stood with their employers in calling on lawmakers to revise budget provisions on textbooks and College Credit Plus as well as increase State Share of Instruction and OCOG funding.

Ohio Faculty Council Chair Dan Krane told the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education that there is a "disconnect" between Ohio's goal of 65% of Ohioans holding degrees or certificates by 2025 and executive budget (HB 49) proposals.

He said the modest 1% increase in SSI coupled with a tuition freeze doesn't promote optimism in reaching that goal.

"At a minimum, there would need to be an average 5% increase in certificates and degrees awarded for each of the next eight years," Mr. Krane said. "To achieve the state's attainment goals there should be at least a 5% increase in SSI."

"A 1% increase in SSI is well below the Consumer Price Index and should not be expected to result in an increase in the fraction of Ohio residents with certificates and degrees," he added.

He also took issue with provisions that would require institutions to cover the cost of student textbooks and revise CCP.

"It is our collective experience that textbook costs are not a common reason for students to not obtain a certificate or degree from one of Ohio's public universities," Mr. Krane said, asking the panel to remove the textbook provision.

"Still, faculty are already eagerly developing and implementing programs that would reduce textbook costs for their students. We would welcome the opportunity to participate in a study group on this issue."

CCP meanwhile can have negative financial impacts on higher education institutions helping to defray costs of the program, he said. The budget calls for institutions to rent textbooks - currently purchased by schools - at a cost of \$10 per credit hour.

Mr. Krane also raised concerns about permitting community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees and designating Western Governors University as a state institution. (*See separate story*)

Faculty members from Ohio State University, Ohio University, Cleveland State University and Wright State University backed up Mr. Krane's testimony, detailing how their institutions would be impacted by the budget.

All said they've already implemented new textbook policies with plans to reduce student costs and more are forthcoming.

Through a handful of initiatives, OSU has saved students an estimated \$3 million with a goal of that total reaching \$20 million by 2020, Associate Professor Bennet Givens said.

Faculty members are integral to textbook initiatives and there are many who've changed their habits and have gotten more creative about how to provide students information in recent years, added Cleveland State University Professor Nigamanth Sridhar.

He said faculty members have become more cognizant of the costs their textbook choices can have for students and they've started working more closely with publishers to get better rates.

Education groups on Tuesday also raised concerns about CCP. However, their take on the issue is in opposition to that of universities and community colleges. (*See [Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2017](#)*)

Representatives from the Ohio School Boards Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators told the subcommittee they're supportive of the textbook proposal, but are opposed to a prohibition on negotiating with universities to get them to charge less than \$40-per-credit hour.

"We favor a more market driven approach to local agreements," OASBO Associate Executive Director Barbara Shaner said. "Currently, school districts have little power to negotiate under CCP."

Subscribers Note: Full testimony is available on the committee's [website](#) under March 21.

Western Governors University Seeks State Designation

Western Governors University on Tuesday made its second attempt at persuading lawmakers to accept an administration proposal to designate the online university as a state institution.

University President Scott Pulsipher largely repeated testimony he'd given to the House Finance Subcommittee on Higher Education last year when the administration first proposed adding WGU to the list of state institutions (HB474, 131st General Assembly).

Since that time, WGU has built a partnership with the state's community colleges to provide bachelor's degree pathways and tuition discounts for Ohio students, but four-year institutions remain leery of the competency-based university. (*See [Gongwer Ohio Report, October 11, 2016](#)*)

Mr. Pulsipher said WGU is unique to the country and provides a pathway for students to earn their bachelor's degrees in about three years at a cost of \$16,000 on average.

Getting students to degrees quicker and at a lower cost is a priority for the state and WGU can play a key role in getting Ohio to its attainment goal, he said.

"In order for the state to attain its goal of 65% of adults holding a credential or degree by 2025, it is important to offer Ohioans who are not able to access the traditional models of higher education an additional educational opportunity," Mr. Pulsipher said. "WGU's role is to be another option for those working adults seeking to improve their lives, and those of their families, through higher education."

"With over 1.2 million Ohio residents having attended some college but holding no degree or credential, there is significant need to offer opportunities for these individuals to access higher education," he added.

WGU currently enrolls 83,000 students from all 50 states, he said. It has awarded more than 79,000 bachelor's and master's degrees, including 2,024 in Ohio.

Subcommittee members asked Mr. Pulsipher multiple times why it's necessary for WGU to become a state-sponsored university and whether the designation will someday lead to state funding.

The president said the university has no interest in seeking operational dollars now or in the future and doesn't do so in other states where it is an affiliate. The university would prefer not to use state money because doing so would result in regulations and a loss of independence, he said.

Although WGU could continue to put resources toward recruiting Ohio students, an endorsement from the state would have the biggest impact on enrollment because it would show legitimacy, Mr. Pulsipher said. Estimates show the number of Ohio students enrolled in the online university could jump from 1,600 currently to 10,000 in the next five years with the state's backing.

"That endorsement lends credibility and reputation to the programs more than any money could," he said.

If the budget provision gets the governor's signature, Mr. Pulsipher said WGU would set up an affiliate office and name a state chancellor as well as ramp up its advertising. He assured lawmakers that any costs incurred in the process would fall on the university and not the state.

He also told the panel that WGU students are already eligible for the Ohio College Opportunity Grant, which is provided at a higher rate afforded to private university students because the institution hasn't filed paperwork to receive state grant dollars.

Referring to the tension that has mounted between universities and WGU since the sponsorship proposal was introduced last year, Chairman Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) asked about WGU's relationships with brick and mortar institutions in other states.

Universities realize quickly that WGU is not a source of competition, Mr. Pulsipher said. That's because 97% of the university's students are not first-time higher education enrollees or attending full time.

"They recognize first and foremost that we are serving different populations," he said, adding that the average WGU student is 24 years old and working full time.

However, professors who also testified before the subcommittee on Tuesday raised more concerns about quality of an online-only education than they did about competition.

Ohio Faculty Council Chair Dan Krane said it's likely WGU will invest about \$10 million to ramp up the number of Ohio students in its programs.

If given the opportunity, state colleges and universities could implement a competency-based learning program with much less because they already have a recognizable and trusted brand, he said. They also likely have a better understanding of Ohio students and the state's economic needs.

"Why don't we invest that here within the state so we can deliver that quality product and maintain control of it both now and down the line?" Mr. Krane asked.

Nigamanth Sridhar, who is the president of the Faculty Senate at Cleveland State University, said his chief concern with WGU is the lack of direct, in-person access to professors.

Psychologists Protest Budget Plan To Consolidate State Board

A trio of psychologists on Tuesday urged a House panel to reject Gov. John Kasich's budget proposal to consolidate the Board of Psychology with other mental health boards.

The budget (HB 49) calls for the board - and the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board and the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board - to be consolidated into the State Behavioral Health and Social Work Board on Jan. 21, 2018.

But psychologists told the House Finance Subcommittee on State Government & Agency Review that would be a bad move.

The OBP currently regulates about 4,000 licensees according to the board's Redbook. The board would be allocated \$384,551 in Fiscal Year 2018, with \$0 in funding the following year due to the consolidation.

David Hayes, past president of the Ohio Psychological Association and the OPA's liaison to the Ohio Board of Psychology, said "significant problems" will arise if the OBP is eliminated and combined with other boards.

He said psychologists are trained and educated in a way different from those in any other behavioral health field. In addition to receiving more extensive training, he said that training includes areas -- neuropsychological testing, for instance -- that other fields don't touch.

"An omnibus board would place the regulation, evaluation and investigation of one profession -- psychology -- under people who lack the appropriate training, background and experience to competently or fairly or ethically do so," Mr. Hayes said. "Psychologists and other behavioral health providers all practice behavioral health, but they do not do the same things. Omnibus boards ignore these essential differences."

Mr. Hayes said Kansas is the only state that currently lacks an independent psychology board.

University of Cincinnati Professor Paula Shear echoed those thoughts by emphasizing the distinctness of psychology training compared with that of other fields. She further argued that staffing reductions likely to follow the consolidation would delay licensure and affect recruitment.

"My primary concern about the proposed legislation is that it will greatly weaken protections for highly vulnerable populations, namely the children, adults and elders of the state of Ohio who require mental health services," she said. "In other words, passage of this bill would undermine the single most important function of a regulatory board: protection of the public."

Kathryn Shroder, a board member of the Ohio School Psychologists Association and a former member of the OBP, in written testimony questioned the administration's assertion the move will save money.

"The boards are self-sufficient," Ms. Shroder wrote. "License fees fully fund the cost of board operations. The boards operate efficiently through group purchasing and shared services. To my knowledge, no taxpayer dollars are saved by consolidating boards."

The move might even cost the state money, she suggested.

"I do know that consolidation would mean that significant additional resources would need to be allocated in order to replace the board members who now review laws and rules, conduct oral exams, and spend hours with investigators reviewing cases of alleged unprofessional conduct," she wrote.

Public Works Prepared To Handle Increased Funding For Local Transportation Projects, Director Says

The leader of the Ohio Public Works Commission said Tuesday that changes made to the two-year transportation budget allocating more money to local governments will not be a problem for his agency to handle.

Michael Miller told members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce Committee that his agency will be able to handle the additional workload if the change remains in the transportation budget (HB 26).

The adjustment increases the share of Motor Fuel Tax receipts dedicated to local road and bridge projects through OPWC's Local Transportation Improvement Program by 0.25 cents in Fiscal Year 2018 and 0.50 cents in FY 19. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 20, 2017)

The increased allocation will result in an additional \$48 million for local road and bridge projects over the biennium.

"That's very manageable," Mr. Miller said.

"One of the reasons we did this is your organization is so highly regarded by our local government partners," Chairman Sen. Frank LaRose (R-Hudson) said of the change.

Sen. LaRose also asked about the feasibility of lowering the percentage of the State Capital Improvement Program that is set aside for loans from 15% to 10%.

The County Engineers Association of Ohio said the move would free up an additional \$7.85 million for infrastructure projects across the state.

Mr. Miller said his agency would not oppose such a change.

"I don't see it having a huge impact on our program," he said. "We would be supportive or it."

The panel also received written testimony from Donna Prease on behalf of Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential. In her testimony, Ms. Prease asked members of the panel to make public transit funding a priority.

Ms. Prease said her and many others with physical disabilities rely on public transportation.

"People with disabilities enjoy being a part of their community. Going to work, shopping, visiting family and friends, and medical appointments happens with public transportation. When routes are eliminated or services hours are cut back, operators are laid off etc., due to lack of funding for public transportation, the general public and especially people with disabilities are hit very hard," she said.

"I cannot physically walk to work or carpool to work. The majority of people with disabilities cannot drive, or if we can, we cannot afford a car."

The executive transportation budget proposal allocated an additional \$10 million for public transit over each of the next two years, bringing the total to \$33 million annually.

The Senate panel on Monday sought to require the Department of Transportation to spend at least that much each of the next two years through the substitute bill that it adopted.

"They had increased that by about \$10 million in what they were proposing to do," Sen. LaRose said on Monday. "But, again, as with a lot of things in the budget, that was just ODOT telling us they intended to do it. It wasn't codified in the language. We said that sounds like a great idea, Ohio Department of Transportation. We love it so much we're going to actually put it in writing."

Bill Proposes Higher Vehicle Registration Fee In Exchange For Fuel Tax Cut

Ohio would fund highway projects through an increased vehicle registration fee and reduce reliance on motor vehicle fuel tax revenues under legislation introduced Tuesday by a Senate Republican lawmaker.

Under legislation ([SB 113](#)) introduced by [Sen. Bill Coley](#) (R-Liberty Twp.), the cost to register a motor vehicle in Ohio would increase to \$140 for passenger vehicles and registrants would receive an identification card to swipe at the gas pump that would exempt them from the 28-cent-per-gallon Motor Fuel Tax.

"We would have a stable revenue flow on which to budget and build roads in to the future," he said.

The \$140 figure was derived from taking the \$1.9 billion in MFT the state collects each year and dividing that by the number of registered vehicles in the state, Sen. Coley said.

Under the proposal, the cost to register a commercial vehicle would be higher than \$140.

"We're consuming fewer and fewer gallons of gas for every mile driven, and yet it's not getting any cheaper to build the roads," he said.

Sen. Coley said he chose not to propose the measure as an amendment to the transportation budget ([HB 26](#)), which originally contained a provision to allow the MFT to be levied on compressed natural gas. (See [Gongwer Ohio Report, February 23, 2017](#))

However, he did not rule out introducing an amendment to the two-year transportation spending outline that would curtail the ability of the Office of Budget and Management director to transfer money without Controlling Board approval.

"There are a number of spots where it's just blanket authority for the OBM director to transfer funds," he said.

Sen. Coley said the need for the change regarding fund transfers arose a few years ago after the administration came to the Controlling Board seeking authority to spend \$11 million for the emergency purchase of salt. He said he later learned the administration used the emergency spending authority to purchase two King Air planes.

The planes they replaced, Sen. Coley said, were barely used in the previous year.

"I'm not happy with what happened. I'm sure everybody had the best intentions," he said.

If not placed in the transportation budget, Sen. Coley said the proposal could be amended into the main operating budget ([HB 49](#)).

Audit Finds More Than \$20,000 In Illegal Spending At Community Correctional Facility

A special audit of a southern Ohio correctional facility uncovered more than \$20,000 in fraudulent spending, the state auditor announced Tuesday.

The [special audit](#) conducted by State [Auditor Dave Yost](#) found employees of the STAR Community Justice Center in Scioto County illegally spent \$20,090 on liquor, hotels and a visit to a strip club. The audit also uncovered forged receipts and stolen property,

About half of the fraudulent spending occurred during conferences across the country.

"These employees used conferences as a cover for their self-indulgent vacations," Auditor Yost said in a statement. "While the amounts may not be the highest we've seen, the egregious nature of what transpired is simply appalling - and at a correctional facility, no less."

JoEllen Smith, a spokeswoman for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, said the agency is reviewing the audit to determine the appropriate next steps.

The audit found that in September 2013, six employees of the facility spent \$154 on 44 beers in Columbus before flying to Reno, Nevada to attend a conference. The drinks were paid for with a STAR credit card.

Once in Reno, the employees spent \$797 on meals and lodging, but none of the six employees attended the conference in its entirety. In fact, several employees, including Executive Director Charles E. Philabaun III, traveled to Lake Tahoe during the event and another skipped an entire day to attend a poker tournament.

The audit also turned up improper charges for alcohol, taxis, travel for family members and excessive meal and lodging costs.

The credit card statements also revealed the expenditure of \$170 at a Columbus strip club. Former Deputy Director Josh Saunders, who was fired from his position in April 2015, admitted to making the transactions on the card following a Christmas party.

"This kind of irresponsible spending is the very reason why credit card policies exist," Mr. Yost said. "Allowable expenditures are determined by policy and state law - not the card holders."

Mr. Sanders was also found to have forged receipts and failed to return company equipment such as an iPad Mini, a laptop and accessories after his termination.

"Of all places, the fact that these improper expenditures occurred at a correctional facility is particularly alarming," Auditor Yost said. "The leaders of these facilities need to set a good example for inmates trying to get their lives back on track."

Gongwer Statehouse Job Market Updated

Gongwer's Statehouse Job Market has been updated. The update is available on the [Gongwer website](#).

Subscribers interested in posting job openings on Gongwer's employment board can send job descriptions and other information to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Thursday, April 13

State Audit Committee, 35th Fl., 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Wednesday, March 29

Sen. Sandra Williams (D-Cleveland) fundraiser, Einstein Bagels, 41 S. High St., Columbus, 8 a.m., (\$1,000 host, \$500 Sponsor, \$350 Friend)


Thursday, April 27

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 E. State St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest: \$250, Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$1,000; Gold sponsor: \$1,500 to Friends of David Leland)

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, March 22

Legislative Committees

House Health (Committee Record) (Chr. Huffman, S., 466-8114), Rm. 121, 9 a.m.

HBMENTAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS (Carfagna, R., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain advanced practice **111** registered nurses to have a person involuntarily transported to a hospital for a mental health examination.
(1st Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBPHARMACY SALES (Rezabek, J., Koehler, K.) To prohibit sales of dextromethorphan without a **73** prescription to persons under age 18. (2nd Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

HBSTEP THERAPY (Johnson, T., Antonio, N.) To adopt requirements related to step therapy protocols **72** implemented by health plan issuers and the Department of Medicaid. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HBEPINEPHRINE DISPENSING (Merrin, D.) To authorize an epinephrine autoinjector substitution when a **101** prescription is filled or refilled, to authorize epinephrine to be dispensed without a prescription under a physician-established protocol, and to declare the act the "Epinephrine Accessibility Act." (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Schaffer, T., 466-8100), Rm. 116, 9 a.m.

- All testimony on tax related provisions of the budget bill. The panel will convene at 9 am and then reconvene at 7 pm to accept additional public testimony

HBWELL FUND (Cera, J., Hill, B.) To limit the amount of revenue that may be credited to the Oil and Gas **105** Well Fund and to allocate funds in excess of that amount to local governments, fire departments, and a grant program to encourage compressed natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Finance: Transportation Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. McColley, R., 466-3760), Rm. 311, 9 a.m.

- Public testimony

House Finance: Primary & Secondary Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Cupp, R., 466-9624), Rm. 122, 9 a.m.

- Public testimony on the biennial budget

Senate Ways & Means (Committee Record) (Chr. Eklund, J., 644-7718), South Hearing Rm., 9 a.m.

SB TAX CREDIT (Skindell, M.) To remove the income restriction on the earned income tax credit and to make **35** the credit refundable beginning in 2017. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

SB SALES TAX HOLIDAY (Brown, E.) To provide a three-day sales tax "holiday" each April during which **65** sales of qualifying Energy Star products are exempt from sales and use taxes. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

House Insurance (Committee Record) (Chr. Brinkman, T., 644-6886), Rm. 018, 10 a.m.

HBBWC BUDGET (Brinkman, T.) To make changes to the Workers' Compensation Law, to make 27 appropriations for the Bureau of Workers' Compensation for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of the Bureau's programs. (5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible substitute, amendments & vote)

Senate Government Oversight & Reform (Committee Record) (Chr. Coley, B., 466-8072), North Hearing Rm., 10 a.m.

SB FISCAL EMERGENCIES (Terhar, L.) To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning 88 and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB PUBLIC NOTICES (Hambley, S., Ryan, S.) To authorize certain state agencies, local governments, and 34 other boards, commissions, and officers to deliver certain notices by ordinary mail and electronically instead of by certified mail. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

SB SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS (Brown, E., Lehner, P.) To require school districts to allow approved 54 summer food service program sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions. (3rd Hearing-All testimony)

SJR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (Huffman, M.) Application to the Congress of the United States 1 for a Convention of the States under Article V of the Constitution of the United States that is limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and Members of Congress. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Yuko, K.) To designate July 8 as "Harrison Dillard Day." (4th Hearing-All 62 testimony-Possible vote)

HB CASINO EMPLOYEES (Seitz, B.) To specify that the criminal penalty related to casino operators and 32 employees participating in casino gaming applies at their casino facility or an affiliated casino facility. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible vote)

Senate Transportation, Commerce & Workforce (Committee Record) (Chr. LaRose, E., 466-4823), Finance Hearing Rm., 10:15 a.m., Webcast

SB BRIDGE PROGRAM (Hoagland, E.) To extend the Ohio Bridge Partnership Program through the end of 6 fiscal year 2019 and to require the Director of Transportation to submit a report to the Governor, Senate, and House of Representatives recommending ways to continue to fund the program. (4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

HB TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to 26 transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. (7th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

House Government Accountability & Oversight (Committee Record) (Chr. Blessing, L., 466-9091), Rm. 114, 10:30 a.m.

HB RECORDS EXEMPTION (Hambley, S., Rezabek, J.) To exempt from the Public Records Law certain 8 information concerning a minor that is included in a record related to a traffic accident involving a school vehicle in which the minor was an occupant at the time of the accident. (2nd Hearing-Proponent)

HB SPECIAL ELECTIONS (Pelanda, D., Retherford, W.) To eliminate the requirement of holding a special 18 election to fill a vacancy in a party nomination for the office of representative to Congress under certain circumstances. (2nd Hearing-All testimony)

HB VOTER REGISTRATION (Pelanda, D.) To modify the law concerning challenges to voter registrations, 41 the appointment of observers, and the procedures for processing absent voter's ballots and for casting absent voter's ballots in person. (2nd Hearing-Proponent-Possible substitute)

House Higher Education & Workforce Development (Committee Record) (Chr. Duffey, M., 644-6030), Rm. 115, 11 a.m.

- Presentation from the Legislative Service Commission regarding Workforce Development

Senate Rules & Reference (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-7505), Majority Conf. Rm., 11 a.m.

House Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Rosenberger, C., 466-3357), House Chamber, 1:30 p.m., Webcast

House Finance: State Government & Agency Review Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Faber, K., 466-6344), Rm. 017, 1:30 p.m. or after session

- Testimony from Department of Commerce and public testimony

Senate Session (Committee Record) (Chr. Obhof, L., 466-4900), Senate Chamber, 1:30 p.m., Webcast

House Finance: Agriculture, Development & Natural Resources Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Thompson, A., 644-8728), Rm. 018, 2:30 p.m.

- Public testimony on the biennial budget

House Finance: Higher Education Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Perales, R., 644-6020), Rm. 121, 2:30 p.m. or after session

- Public testimony on the biennial budget

House Finance: Health & Human Services Sub. (Committee Record) (Chr. Romanchuk, M., 466-5082), Rm. 313, 3 p.m. or after session

- Public budget testimony on Developmental Disabilities, insurance and healthcare, and Job and Family Services

Senate Education (Committee Record) (Chr. Lehner, P., 466-4538), South Hearing Rm., 3:15 p.m., Webcast

- Confirmation hearing on governor's appointment of Kara Morgan, State Board of Education

SB SCHOOL CHOICE (Huffman, M.) To eliminate the Educational Choice Scholarship Pilot Program and **85** Pilot Project Scholarship Program and to create the Opportunity Scholarship Program. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

SB SCHOOL ABSENCES (Williams, S., Lehner, P.) To require a public school to place a telephone call within **82** one hour of the start of the school day to a parent whose child is absent without legitimate excuse. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

House Community & Family Advancement (Committee Record) (Chr. Ginter, T., 466-8022), Rm. 114, 4 p.m.

HBEET CARDS (Schaffer, T.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the **50** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (3rd Hearing-Opponent)

HB COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES (Gavarone, T., Wiggam, S.) To establish a database of persons who **115** voluntarily register as being diagnosed with a communication disability or who voluntarily register a minor child or ward as the parents or guardians of such persons for purposes of law enforcement notification. (1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Agency Calendar

State Personnel Board of Review, 65 E. State St., 12th Fl., Columbus, 10 a.m.

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Ohio Soft Drink Association Advocacy Day at the Statehouse

Immunization Advocacy Network of Ohio 6th Annual Statehouse Day, Sheraton Downtown Columbus, Governor's Room A, 75 E. State St., Columbus, 8:30 a.m.

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) fundraiser, Oliver's, 26 N. High Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio and/or Citizens to Elect Craig Riedel)

Rep. Bill Blessing (R-Colerain Township) fundraiser, Little Palace, 240 S. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$1,000; Host: \$500; Sponsor: \$350 to Citizens for Blessing)

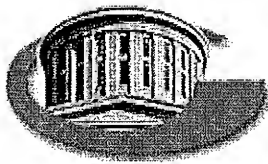
Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) & Rep. Scott Wiggam (R-Wooster) fundraiser, Athletic Club, Parlors A&B, 136 E. Broad St., Columbus, 5 p.m.

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GONGWER Ohio
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Senate Activity for Tuesday, March 21, 2017

INTRODUCED

SB EMERGENCY PROGRAMS (Coley, B.) To permit a board of county commissioners, as an alternative to **103** entering into an agreement to establish a countywide emergency management agency, to enter into a contract of not longer than four years with the county sheriff or a chief of a fire department that has countywide authority to implement a countywide emergency management program. Am. 5502.26 and 5502.261

SB SCHOOL SECLUSION (Tavares, C.) To prohibit the use of seclusion on students in public schools. Am. **104** 3319.46

SB MONTH DESIGNATION (Tavares, C.) To designate the month of October as "Ohio Principals Month." **105** En. 5.2315

SB SMOKING (Tavares, C.) To prohibit smoking in a motor vehicle in which a child under six years of age is **106** a passenger. Am. 4511.80

SB VETERAN IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.) To provide that any nondriver identification card that is **107** issued to a veteran who is disabled or blind may be issued without an expiration date. Am. 4507.52

SB MONTH DESIGNATION (Tavares, C.) To designate the month of June as "Pride Month." En. 5.242 **108**

SB MEDICAL INFORMATION (Tavares, C.) To establish the "Yellow Dot" motor vehicle medical **109** information program within the Department of Public Safety. Am. 5502.59

SB HEALTH CARE IDENTIFICATION (Tavares, C.) To require a health care professional to wear **110** identification when providing care or treatment in the presence of a patient. Am. 4715.43, 4723.94, 4725.62, 4729.71, 4730.55, 4731.33, 4732.35, 4734.58, 4743.09, 4753.17, 4755.72, 4757.47, 4758.73, 4759.13, 4760.23, 4761.19, 4762.24, 4765.60, 4773.10, 4774.23, 4778.26, and 4779.35

SB SCHOOL ZONES (Tavares, C.) To require school zones to be indicated by signs equipped with flashing **111** or other lights or that indicate the times during which the restrictive speed limit is enforced, and to make an appropriation. Am. 4511.21

SB INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (Schiavoni, J.) To establish the green infrastructure fund and to make an **112** appropriation. Am. 164.11

SB FUEL TAX (Coley, B.) To levy an additional registration tax on passenger cars, noncommercial motor vehicles, and commercial cars and trucks beginning on January 1, 2020; to authorize a per-gallon motor fuel retail price reduction for consumers that is equal to the state per-gallon motor fuel tax of \$.28; and to exempt each gallon of motor fuel that is sold at the reduced retail price from the state motor fuel tax. Am. 4503.10, 5735.06, and 5735.10 and to enact sections 4501.50, 4503.106, and 5735.50

Gongwer Coverage

SCRHEALTH LAW (Jordan, K.) To urge Congress to continue its efforts to fully repeal the Affordable Care Act and to recommend that future federal health care policies pursue free market solutions, restore power to patients, health care providers, and the states, fund the Medicaid program through block grants to individual states, and permit the sale of health insurance across state lines.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Health, Human Services & Medicaid

SBNURSE STAFFING (Skindell, M.) To establish minimum ratios of direct-care registered nurses to patients in hospitals, to specify rights of registered nurses working in hospitals, and to prohibit retaliatory actions by hospitals against registered nurses. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) said the bill would improve health outcomes and help nurses by limiting the number of patients they can be responsible for in certain hospital settings and requiring hospitals to establish and post policies for nurse staffing ratios.

"Where nursing staffs are insufficient in a unit of a hospital, there are also health and safety issues for nurses, whereby they may have greater stress in achieving the objectives of the job of patient care," he said. "This bill addresses these health and safety shortcomings in the health care industry."

The measure also prohibits mandatory overtime to meet ratio requirements and establishes protections for nurses who act as whistleblowers.

Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) asked what happened if a hospital violates the ratio. Sen. Skindell said the hospital would be fined.

SBAGENCY CONTRACTS (Manning, G.) To allow a board of alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services to authorize its executive director to execute contracts valued at \$50,000 or less without the board's prior approval. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) said the bill would allow the executive director of a county board of mental health to enter into contracts for routine administrative and treatment functions up to \$50,000.

"Clients who have overdosed, harmed themselves or may be a danger to others are required to stay in an emergency room due to their existing contract even if it is not the best fit," she said. "The current law stands that the executive director on the mental health board is unable to approve the relocation of a client without being approved by the board."

Sen. Manning said the bill is permissive, meaning each board can determine the level of control they feel is necessary.

"This legislation would allow someone in a crisis situation to be moved to a more appropriate treatment location with the approval from the executive director whether the board has had the opportunity to meet or not," she said.

SB EBT CARDS (Huffman, M.) To establish requirements for electronic benefit transfer cards issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) said the bill would require color photographs on electronic benefit transfer cards issued through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"Sometimes these cards are used because they're stolen from the person who's supposed to be using them," Sen. Huffman said. "Sometimes they're also, unfortunately, sold for cash. And sometimes they're used in an illicit underground economy."

Sen. Huffman said there are exemptions in place in cases of individuals over age 60, those with disabilities, victims of domestic violence and those with religious objections to having their picture taken. He said people would also be able to put multiple pictures on the cards.

"In the first place, the purpose of this is to protect the benefits of the person who's supposed to be using them," he said.

He also said the workers in stores would not be required to revoke the card or anything like that, but that they could call police using a number on the card to report possible fraud.

"There's not going to be a confrontation at the store," he said.

The biggest effect of the bill, Sen. Huffman said, would be that people would be deterred from using someone else's card.

SB PUBLIC BENEFITS (Coley, B.) Regarding eligibility and benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program and the Medicaid program. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

The bill is intended to reduce fraud and improper payments in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and in Medicaid, Sponsor Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) said.

It would require state agencies to verify eligibility quarterly and to check against state, federal and commercial databases, including earned and unearned income, employment status, immigration status, state residency, enrollment in other programs, financial resources, lottery winnings, incarceration status and death records.

"Many of these changes have been initiated in other states and proven very successful in correcting errors and removing fraud," Sen. Coley said. "This is not about taking away benefits from people who need assistance, the very people welfare programs were created to help. Instead, it protects the most vulnerable and taxpayer dollars from those no longer eligible but who remain in the system."

SB DENTAL THERAPISTS (Lehner, P., Thomas, C.) To establish licensing requirements for dental therapists. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsors Sen. Lehner and Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said the bill would improve access to dental care by creating a mid-level profession of dental therapists. Those therapists would be able to perform some procedures, operating under the supervision of a dentist.

"Team-based dental care that includes skilled mid-level practitioners can increase access to quality in a comprehensive, cost-effective way," Sen. Lehner said. "This evidence-based approach to expanding access to oral health care through mid-level providers will modernize our state's dental practice that is currently on its way to leaving millions of Ohioans without care in the coming years."

The bill would also increase the ability of dental hygienists to provide basic cleanings and preventive care in a setting where a dentist might not be physically present, Sen. Lehner said.

Sen. Thomas likened areas without dental services to food deserts, and pointed out that only a fraction of the state's more than 6,000 dentists accept Medicaid patients.

"How can we expect our children to grow with confidence when they are embarrassed to even crack a smile?" he said.

Sen. Charleta B. Tavares (D-Columbus) said it would likely cut down on emergency room visits for toothaches and other dental problems, and Sen. Lehner said conditions such as abscessed teeth can be fatal.

"My understanding is that the only thing that the emergency room can do for a patient who comes in with a toothache is give them pain medication," Sen. Tavares said.

SB MEDICAID ENROLLMENT (Coley, B.) To prohibit the Medicaid program from newly enrolling **99** individuals as part of the expansion eligibility group. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sponsor Sen. Coley said the bill would end new enrollments in the expansion, or Group VIII, Medicaid population.

"With the skyrocketing costs of health care that we've all seen firsthand, we need to consider all options and prioritize care," he said. "Even with the introduction of the American Health Care Act, this freeze of Medicaid expansion is necessary."

While the repeal of the Affordable Care Act is likely, he said, the state should stop enrollment until the plan to replace it becomes apparent.

The bill would not kick anyone off of Medicaid, but would limit new enrollees, Sen. Coley said.

"Everybody who's in the pool now stays in the pool, we just don't get any new swimmers in the expansion group until we know what's going on," he said.

Sen. Edna Brown (D-Toledo) said she was worried it would leave many people, particularly single adults, without access to insurance.

"I have quite a large number of constituents, particularly young men, in this age group that I'm talking about, 19-64, who do not have children, who do not have medical coverage," she said.

Sen. Coley said the lack of doctors who accept Medicaid patients makes it hard for them to get care even if they have coverage.

Sen. Tavares said she thought it would be better to make sure those people can get coverage, even if it will be taken away later, because it will allow them to deal with some conditions.

"It is better, in our health care system, to have people get their care taken care of while we have the Affordable Care Act, and waiting on whatever that next program is to cover everyone," she said. "At least we would have some care provided in a more cost-effective way, rather than waiting until they show up on a hospital emergency room."

Sen. Coley said recent legislation has incentivized doctors to volunteer their skills and time in exchange for continuing education credits, and that can help handle some of the care needs.

Transportation, Commerce & Workforce

HBTRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.) To make appropriations for programs related to **26** transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs. (CONTINUED (See separate story); 6th Hearing-All testimony)

Subscribers Note: For full testimony, visit the [committee's website](#) under March 21.

Local Government, Public Safety & Veterans Affairs

HB DAY DESIGNATION (Leland, D., West, T.) To designate October 7 as "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day."
59 (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) and Rep. Thomas West (D-Canton) urged the panel to approve the bill that honors the African American baseball pioneer.

Mr. Leland said the Ohio-born Moses Fleetwood Walker was the first African American to play in the major leagues, having suited up for the Toledo Blue Stockings in a league that was the precursor to MLB's American League.

Rep. West said Mr. Walker was hated by most people on the field - including his teammates - solely because of his race. His time as a player, he said, came just years after the end of slavery.

SB BUILDING CODES (Bacon, K.) To enable limited home rule townships to adopt building codes regardless
43 of any similar codes adopted by the county in which the township resides. (CONTINUED; 2nd Hearing-
Proponent)

Heidi Fought of the Ohio Township Association urged support for the proposal, saying it would grant authority to 32 townships that have limited home rule authority.

Also testifying on behalf of the Coalition of Large Ohio Urban Townships, she said the townships that would pursue building codes and departments are sophisticated and have the skills needed to operate the agencies.

Ms. Fought added that townships qualifying under the bill would still have to go through an extensive public process before adopting building codes. Further, she said a vote to establish a code would have to be unanimous among trustees.

Bryan Rhoads of Blendon Township offered brief proponent testimony. He said the measure would set the stage for his township to establish its own building code that would allow residents and businesses to seek all the permits they need at a single location.

SB DRONE USE (Skindell, M., Jordan, K.) To regulate the use of drones for gathering evidence and
60 information by law enforcement officers in Ohio. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) urged support for the bill that he said makes sure that the Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Evidence and basic civil liberties are preserved when law enforcement officials use drones.

"Specifically, the legislation states that, with rare exceptions, law enforcement must obtain search warrants in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure," he said.

The sponsor said there are some rare occasions, such as emergencies, when warrants would not be needed. The bill also declares that drones can be used to collect information involving traffic accidents and helping to locate missing persons whose health or mental states may create a need for drone use. The bill, he said, also establishes reporting requirements on drone use by law enforcement.

Mr. Skindell said drone use is almost omnipresent, and they can create privacy and civil liberty concerns.

Sen. Lou Terhar (R-Cincinnati) and Sen. Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) questioned whether there is a difference between evidence and information collected by drone.

Sen. Skindell said he would review the language to see if definitions needed to be enhanced.

Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) said he has used drones overseas, and that decisions about who maintains information and analytics is important.

Co-sponsor Sen. Kris Jordan (R-Ostrander) said the founders were some of the country's biggest civil libertarians, and the measure will help "clean up" some of the rights that citizens have.

He said the right to privacy is important, and added that the use of law enforcement drones on private property could violate expectations of privacy.

Sen. Skindell told Sen. Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) that the bill impacts all law enforcement that use state courts, including both state and local authorities, including the Attorney General and State Highway Patrol.

Sen. Cecil Thomas (D-Cincinnati) said downtown areas may have several cameras that are regularly monitored by law enforcement that may make arrests based on what they observe. Sen. Skindell said a key difference is that the municipal cameras are often stationary, and are not flown onto a person's private property.

SB DAY DESIGNATION (Hackett, B.) To designate the twenty-fifth day of May as "Ohio National Missing **86** Children's Day." (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) said his bill would help raise awareness of missing children in Ohio and beyond.

Judiciary

HBDATING PROTECTION ORDERS (Sykes, E., Manning, N.) To authorize the issuance of dating violence **1** protection orders with respect to conduct directed at a petitioner alleging dating violence, to provide access to domestic violence shelters for victims of dating violence, and to require the Attorney General's victim's bill of rights pamphlet to include a notice that a petitioner alleging dating violence has the right to petition for a civil protection order. (CONTINUED; 1st Hearing-Sponsor)

Rep. Emilia Sykes (D-Akron) said her bill "would close a loophole in existing state law that leaves thousands of Ohioans without recourse in the event of dating violence."

Current law does not allow individuals who are in dating or intimate relationships to obtain protection orders when those relationships turn violent, she said. Individuals must be spouses, family members, cohabitating, or share a child in common to receive those protections presently.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that nearly 25% of women and 7.6% of men have been victims of intimate partner violence, Rep. Sykes said. Other studies show females between the ages of 16-24 experience the highest rate of relationship violence of any age group.

"While the purpose of domestic violence statutes is to give victims protection against the pervasive cycle of abuse, victims abused in these violent relationships by those in dating relationships do not gain protection simply because they do not fall into the current statutory definition, although they experience similar types of violence," she said.

She added that Ohio would become the 49th state to extend protection orders to victims of dating violence if the bill is enacted.

For those who may be leery of the effectiveness of protection orders, joint sponsor Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) said research has found that violence stopped or declined after the orders were approved.

The bill has been revised since the last time it appeared before the committee, Rep. Sykes said. It clarifies gun restriction laws pertaining to protection orders and does not include language regarding orders obtained by juveniles.

The latest iteration also requires individuals to provide more information about the nature of their relationships when filing for the orders, she said.

Answering questions from the panel, Rep. Manning said those who would be eligible for the protection orders as a result of dating violence likely wouldn't fall into the category of those who can receive protection orders as a result of menacing stalking.

SBDUG OFFENSES (LaRose, F.) To increase penalties for drug trafficking violations, drug possession violations, and aggravated funding of drug trafficking when the drug involved in the offense is a fentanyl-related compound, to revise the manner of determining sentence for certain violations of the offense of permitting drug abuse, and to add lisdexamphetamine to the list of schedule II controlled substances. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 6th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The committee accepted two amendments before advancing the measure.

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) offered the first amendment stating that prosecutors would have the burden of proving individuals had knowledge that drugs they possessed contained fentanyl.

The language only applies to individuals possessing Schedule 3-5 drugs, such as marijuana, in the amount of four grams or less, he said. It has the support of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, judges and prosecutors.

The change will ensure that those who would have otherwise been charged with a misdemeanor aren't charged with trafficking when they had no idea their drugs contained fentanyl, Mr. Dolan said.

"I think that's the goal of this committee: to make sure we're going after the right people," he said.

Chairman Sen. Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) offered an amendment that would remove language regarding marijuana trafficking and manslaughter sentencing "that shouldn't have been there in the original bill."

SBFELONY SENTENCES (Hackett, B.) To require an additional prison term of 3 to 8 years for an offender 20 who is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony offense of violence if the offender is convicted of or pleads guilty to a specification that the victim suffered permanent disabling harm. (REPORTED; 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Sen. Michael Skindell (D-Lakewood) offered a failed amendment that would have given judges the ability to add any time up to eight years onto the sentence for the specification.

He argued that judges should be given the discretion to determine how many years should be added as opposed to be requires to add at least three years when children are permanently disabled.

Sen. Bacon, who supported the eventual tabling of the amendment, said the bill's sponsor preferred the narrow specification set forth in the bill.

Barry Wilford, with the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, opposed the measure, saying the current law is working as it should.

He argued that the case that inspired the bill wasn't handled in line with other cases like it and the proposed language could result in a longer jail sentence for permanently disabling a child than for murdering a child.

The witness also told the committee that to determine permanent disabling harm, medical and psychological experts will have to be brought in to courts - a process that can be costly.

SBTRIAL TIMELINES (Eklund, J.) To provide a prosecutor an additional fourteen days to commence a trial 32 after a person charged with a felony has been discharged because the person has not been brought to trial within the required amount of time and to authorize the court to release the person from detention in connection with those charges pending trial. (REPORTED-AMENDED (No testimony); 5th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) said an amendment added to the bill would ensure the three-for-one counting mechanism that is in state law would not apply when a case is preparing to come to trial under the bill.

SBLAW ENFORCEMENT DATA (Eklund, J.) To allow disclosure of information from the law enforcement **33** automated data system (LEADS) to a defendant in a traffic or criminal case. (**REPORTED-AMENDED** (No testimony); 4th Hearing-All testimony-Possible amendments & vote)

The committee accepted two amendments from Sen. Eklund that clarify the information provided to a defendant is only what is available in LEADS and allow for the redaction of personal identifying details regarding witnesses, law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

SBCRIMINAL LAWS (Eklund, J., Tavares, C.) To modify criminal sentencing and corrections law by **66** including rehabilitation as a purpose of felony sentencing, removing the one-year minimum for presumptive fourth or fifth degree felony community control sanctions, modifying sanctions for a violation of a community control condition, modifying the manner of calculating confinement credits, modifying eligibility criteria and procedures for granting intervention in lieu of conviction, making offenders convicted of certain multiple fourth or fifth degree felonies eligible for conviction record sealing, revising procedures for the Adult Parole Authority to grant a final release or terminate post-release control, and modifying the criteria for considering a prison term sanction for a post-release control violation. (**CONTINUED**; 2nd Hearing-Proponent)

Gene Gallo, executive director of the Eastern Ohio Correctional Center and a member of CorJus, said the bill is important as the state looks to reduce its prison population and supervise low-level, nonviolent offenders in their communities.

"(Community Based Correctional Facilities) provide evidence-based programmatic intervention in the community for eligible felony offenders," he said. "The programming includes education, job training, cognitive behavioral therapy, family outreach, and substance abuse treatment during the term of their sentences - all aimed to rehabilitate the individual and strengthen our communities."

Michael Randle, president-elect of the Ohio Community Corrections Association, said the bill's focus on intervention is particularly vital as opiate abuse is increasing throughout the state.

The bill also expands judges' abilities to consider including rehabilitation alongside punishment, he said.

"Formally including rehabilitation in the sentencing principals will allow judges more discretion to craft effective sentences," he said.

Mr. Randle asked that the panel take up an amendment that would add halfway houses to the list of places where individuals can serve terms. The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction supports the change, he said.

"The research-based programs and services that halfway houses provide have been proven to reduce recidivism, and the individuals who are placed in a halfway house will engage in treatment services, gather resources and learn the skills necessary for a successful, crime-free life during their stay," he said.

DRC pays for halfway house stays if they're imposed as a sanction, he told the panel.

Shakyra Diaz, Midwest regional director for The Alliance for Safety and Justice, said the organization conducted the first national survey of victim's views in the country and found that by a margin of 2-1, they'd like to see the criminal justice system focus more on rehabilitation.

"By a margin of 3 to 1, crime victims shared the belief that time in prison make people more likely to commit another crime rather than less likely," she said.

Wendy Tarr, director of the Vincentian Ohio Action Network, said the bill's provisions on expunging and sealing records will go a long way in helping low-level offenders reintegrating into society.

"Many returning citizens we work with lack needed family support, educational or vocation skills, and housing. However, even others who do have these things still face serious challenges in their reentry. All are in need of changes in the law to help them move forward, especially in accessing employment that goes beyond the lowest paid positions with little to no career path options," she said. "Expansion of record expungement and sealing is critically important towards this goal."

Brandon Chrostowski said he founded EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute in Cleveland to address that issue of finding work and meaning upon re-entry into society.

EDWINS trains former incarcerated Ohioans to work in the culinary field, he said. Of the 170 who have graduated from the program, just two have gone back to jail and about 96% are in jobs in their trained field.

Answering questions from lawmakers, Mr. Chrostowski said the institute purposefully doesn't focus on why enrollees went to prison or how long they were there, so he doesn't have data showing whether certain types of inmates would do better in training programs upon release.


The institute gives enrollees three weeks to learn the basics of the food industry, cooking and career preparation before they can begin the six-month training course, he said. About half drop out in that time, but some do come back later to enroll when they're better prepared.

The committee also heard testimony from a handful of formerly incarcerated individuals who've struggled to find work as a result of their previous records or who have landed back in prison for minor parole violations.

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Sarah LaTourette Kayser <latoursm@gmail.com>

Department of Political Science Winter 2017 e-Newsletter

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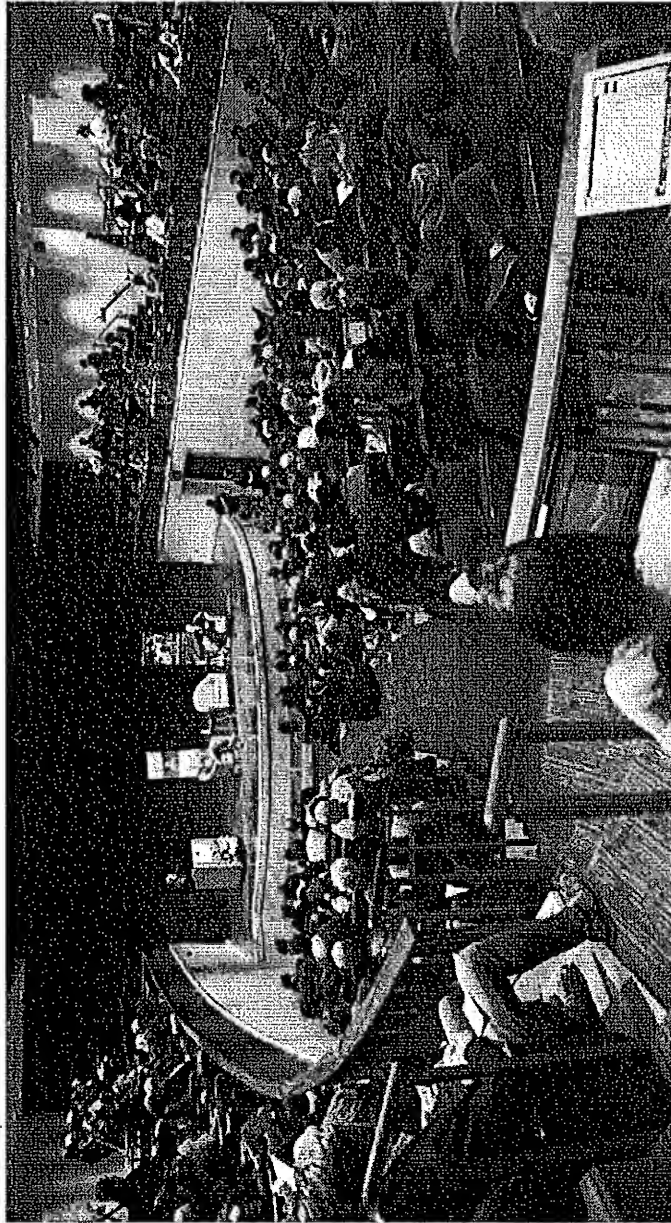
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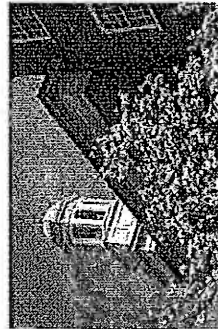
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The Department of Political Science Spring 2017 Alumni Newsletter



Support POL



The generous support of our donors provides our students and faculty with the resources to take part in a variety of activities that would otherwise be impossible.

Scholarships, special lectures, and support for student and faculty research projects enhance the academic mission of the Department

Welcome from the Chair

When you work on a college campus, you are not only used to transitions but they are some of the fun of the job! Seasons change, there's a flow to events through the year that is exciting, starting with Convocation and ending with Spring Commencement. Students graduate, new students move in.

The Department of Political Science has experienced an unusual number of transitions in the last year—some exciting, some tragic. We have a new President, Gregory Crawford. And of course now we have a new U.S. President—and that election and new administration have helped keep things exciting around here!

- Several of our colleagues retired in May 2016, and we thank them all for their years of service and their friendship and partnership: Clyde Brown, Mel Cohen, Adeed Dawisha, and Karen Dawisha.



of Political Science and the student experience.

This support is a vital component in our mission. Please take a few minutes and consider making an investment in the Department of Political Science.

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- Our colleague Cyril Daddieh suffered a terrible stroke toward the end of the 2015-2016 school year and has not been able to return.
- One of our majors, Erin Rodriguez, passed away suddenly at her home in Florida in January. Erin was interested in law school, was co-captain of the Women's Tennis Team, a Dean's List student, and a College Ambassador, and we are saddened by this terrible loss.

We have exciting new additions too, though:

- Dr. Rachel Blum joined the faculty this fall on a tenure track, joining Dr. Amanda Gillespie, Dr. Youn Ki (both in their second year with us), and Dr. Erica Edwards (in her third year) in our contingent of assistant professors. Next year more colleagues will join us, and hopefully more after that.
- We brought a very large class of Political Science, Public Administration, and Diplomacy & Global Politics majors to campus this past fall, and right now we have over 750 majors and more than 110 minors in the department.
- We brought a group of 21 very high ability students to campus as Law & Public Policy Scholars, with majors mostly in the department and shared interests in law, government, and public affairs.
- We recognized our first designee of the Gus Jones Scholarship, honoring our colleague Gus Jones, who passed away last school year.
- And next year we will have our first Dan Jacobs Scholarship recipient, honoring our colleague Dan Jacobs and awarded to a new Law & Public Policy Scholar interested in a career in law. One of Dan's former students, Hank Hockeimer, a lawyer in Philadelphia, endowed this scholarship in Dan's honor, and we are very grateful.

In January 2017 we kicked off a new Winter Term program that takes students to Washington, DC, and embeds them in the Miami community in DC—including a day of shadowing with alumni. Professors Chris Kelley and Cheryl Gibbs (from Media, Journalism, and Film) helped execute this experience, which included being present for the inauguration. None of it could have happened without our great students, talented faculty, and dedicated alumni in Washington, DC, including the Alumni Board we have there, chaired by Steve Pinkos. The Janus Forum programs were crowded houses on super topics with great guests—all run by our wonderful students.

I cannot thank all of you enough for all your continuing help and support. The way you support our students and faculty helps make Miami great. I hope you will all continue to be engaged, keep in touch, and take a Miami intern! Thanks again for all your support.

Patrick J. Haney
Professor and Chair

Miami's Constitution Day Conference brings in nationally recognized scholars to provide modern context to the U.S. Constitution

On September 22, the Miami University Janus Forum, in partnership with the Jack Miller Center, presented its first Constitution Day Conference in Armstrong Student Center.

Focusing on both historical and modern interpretations of the U.S. Constitution, the day-long event consisted of two moderated roundtable conversations followed by a final presentation from two constitutional experts: Yale Law School professor Akhil Reed Amar and Director of the National Constitution Center Jeffrey Rosen.



What Are the Foreign Policy Issues that Face the Next U.S. President?

Last October, with the presidential election less than two weeks away, it was only fitting that Miami University's Fall 2016 Janus Forum centered around the foreign policy challenges that would face the next U.S. president.

Ambassador Wendy Sherman and Admiral James Stavridis were joined by Miami students, faculty and community members in the Armstrong Student Center Wilks Theater on Tuesday night to discuss these future challenges.



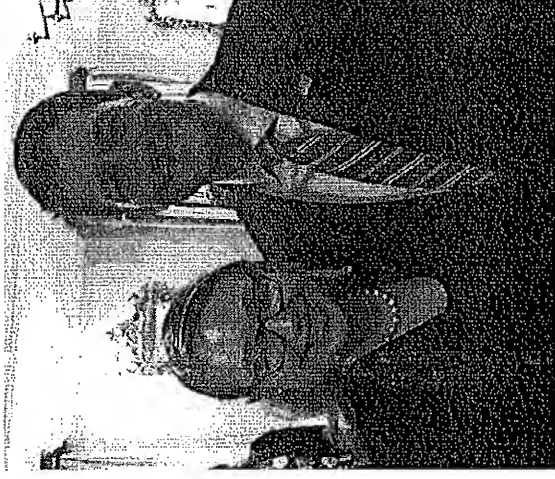
[Continue reading on the Oxford Patch](#)

Student Spotlights

Hannah Shepherd

- Junior, Political Science Major (BA/MA Program)
- From Elm Grove, Wisconsin

As a prospective student, Hannah was drawn to the "close connection between teachers and students" and appreciated that Miami's faculty were approachable and eager to mentor students. Being accepted to the academic scholars program in Pre-Law and Public Policy gave her the opportunity to meet with **Dr. Patrick Haney**, Department Chair for the Political Science Department, who outlined that many opportunities that Miami's program could offer her. After visiting Oxford and meeting with faculty, she chose Miami. [Read more about Hannah.](#)



Kirby Chandler

- Senior, Political Science & Economics Double Major
- From Houston, Texas

Coming out of high school in Texas, Kirby had the choice of Miami and the University of Texas in Austin; she chose Miami because she got to see the "classes where professors engaged with their students and formed connections." She believes that professors "help a person grow and establishing lifelong bonds with a professor shows a student's dedication to their work inside and outside the classroom." Her interest in political discourse, policy, and economics led her to pursue a double major in political science and economics. [Read more about Kirby.](#)



Benghazi. Watch her video interview or read the transcript.



Spring 2016 Awards

the Department also honors students for their activities at a University level.

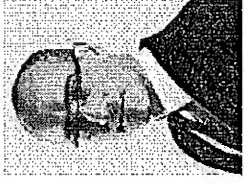
Arthur C. Brooks gives lecture on "The Conservative Heart"

renowned conservative writer **Arthur C. Brooks** for his lecture “The Conservative Heart” on April

6, 2016. A packed Taylor Auditorium tuned in to hear Brooks speak on the importance of kindness and integrity in a hostile political climate.

Brooks is the president of the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), which is a public policy think tank in Washington, D.C. He regularly contributes columns for *The New York Times* and was a business and government professor at Syracuse University. He is most notably the author of several bestsellers, including *The Conservative Heart: How to Build a Happier, Fairer, and More Prosperous America* that was published in 2015.

Brooks began his lecture by discussing his political background – or lack thereof.



West Lecture offers scientific reasoning for behavior of 2016 presidential candidates

Last spring, guest speaker Lynn Vavreck made sense of the lively rhetoric of the 2016 presidential campaign in her talk, "Who's Ahead and Who's Behind in the Race for the White House."



An audience of Miami students and faculty gathered in the Armstrong Student Center on March 31, 2016 for the annual Darrell West Lecture in American Politics, sponsored by the Department of Political Science.

Department of Political Science

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ALEC Digital Exchange: What are Millennials Saying in Your District?

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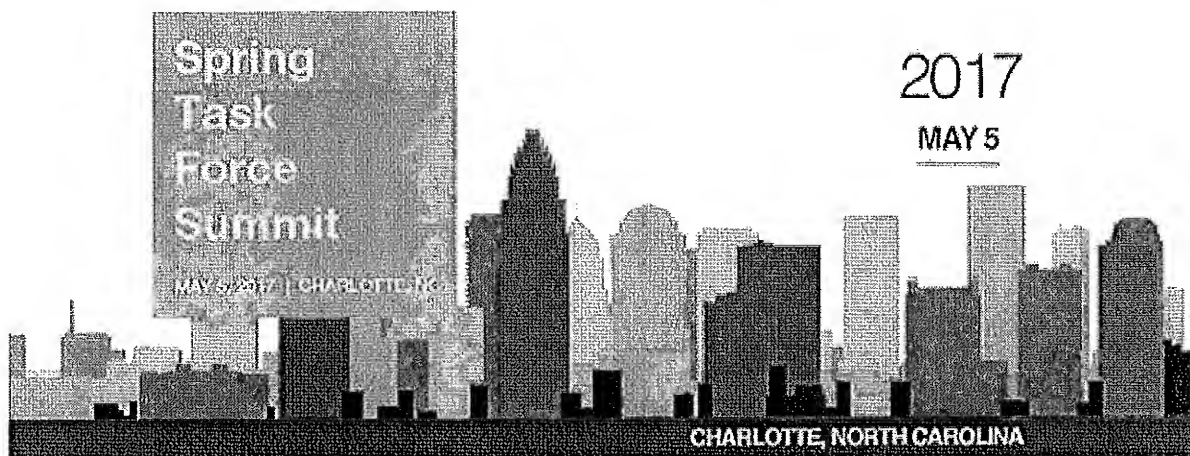
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[Click Here to Register Now](#)**Constituent Insight****Millennial Message to Millennials**
CPAC 2017 | A Sarah Wood Production[Watch the Full Video](#)

Not all millennials fit the political stereotype. Young conservatives attending CPAC weighed in - offering a message of political independence to fellow millennials. Click here to find out what young constituents are saying in your district.



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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Representative Lori Saine | CO-63



[Read the Full Bio](#)

Colorado Representative Lori Saine is serving her fifth year representing the 63rd District. She serves as the Regional Sales Director for Text Mobile Alerts and has previously served as a City Councilwoman for the city of Dacono. Additionally, she served as coordinator and instructor for Constitutional Kids Patriot Camp, a day camp that teaches about the Constitution and American Patriotism. [Click here to read the full bio.](#)



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ALEC Celebrates Women's History Month

Featuring ALEC Women Legislators

Arizona Senator Debbie Lesko | Wisconsin Senator Leah Vukmir | New Mexico Representative Yvette Herrell



[Watch the Full Video](#)

Women are paving the way in state legislatures across the country, bringing a fresh perspective to the table on limited government, free markets and federalism. The ALEC Women's Legislative Caucus is an opportunity to bring women together from all 50 states to discuss these issues.



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ALEC CARE Demonstration

Come see what ALEC lawmakers consider one of the most valuable benefits of membership at the Spring Task Force Summit

ALEC CARE is a CRM solution that will transform the way you interact with your constituents. ALEC will host demonstrations of this game-changing program Thursday afternoon, May 4; Friday, May 5; and Saturday morning, May 6 in Charlotte.

At the training, you will learn:

- How to turn contact information into engaging relationships with your constituents
- How to be a better lawmaker by using data

Make your plans to attend a demonstration during the Spring Task Force Summit. RSVP to Ashley Varner.

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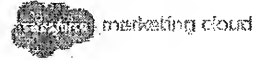


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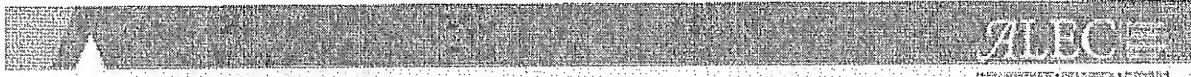
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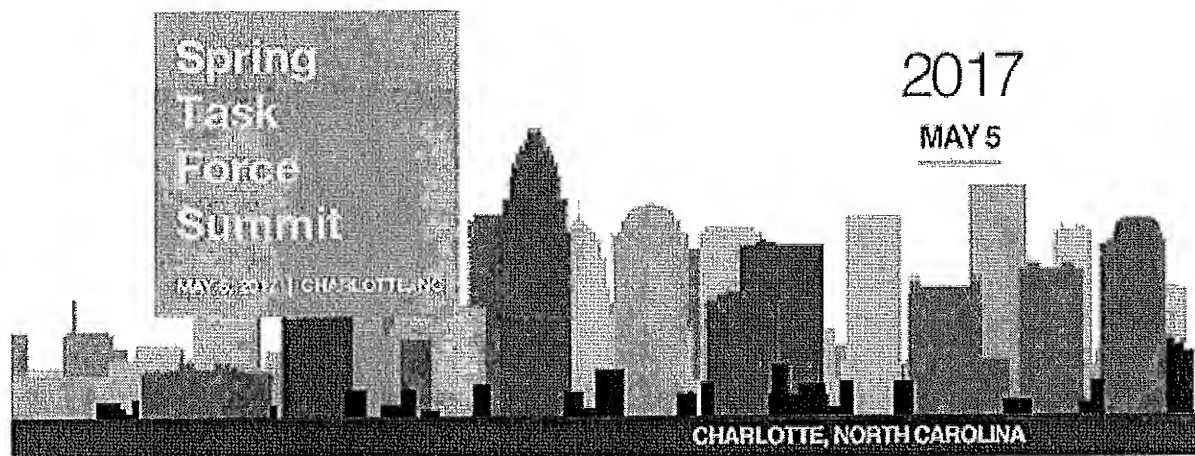
Center for State Fiscal Reform - March 28, 2017



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ALEC Update

Inaugural ALEC-Heritage Foundation Pension Reform Working Group

Pension Reform | Radio Interview | American Family Radio Featuring Jonathan Williams



Along with The Heritage Foundation, ALEC launched the inaugural Pension Reform Working Group on March 6. ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson welcomed more than 30 stakeholders from across the nation. The mission of this working group is to discuss best practices and develop free market solutions to address the pension crisis at all levels of government.

For more information or to find out how you can join this new, exciting working group, please contact Jonathan Williams at jwilliams@alec.org

[Click Here to Join Today](#)



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Expert Insight

Despite What the Media is Telling You, Tax Cuts Really do Boost Economic Growth in the States

Washington Examiner | Jonathan Williams | Tax Reform



The exemption on pass-through income has been one of the most debated elements of the Kansas tax changes, but also produced strong growth - to the **ludicrous** claim that "a tax cut of only a few percent" is doubtful to "nudge people to make big new investments or hire workers," one need look only to the substantial bulk of academic literature and some old-fashion **common sense** that show the opposite.



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Expert Insight

The Williams Report: State Budgets

State Budget Analysis | Bob Williams | Senior Fellow



NEW REPORT: Released March 17, by the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform. ALEC Senior Fellow Bob Williams, provides a run down of the latest budgets and pension reform in the states.



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Featured Publication

Lessons from Kansas: A Behind the Scenes Look at America's Most Discussed Tax Reform Effort

State Budget Reform | Jonathan Williams | Ben Wilterdink

Positioned in the center of the United States, Kansas has often served as a stand-in for the preferences of non-coastal America. While the exact causes behind the media flurry around the Kansas tax reform effort might not be clear, it is clear to most observers of state policy at this point Kansas was, and continues to be, a flashpoint in debates about state tax policy. Click here to find out more.



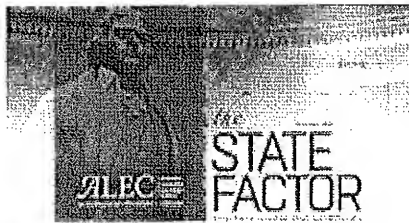
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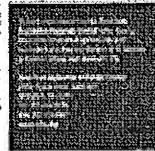
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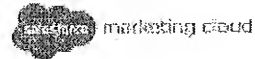
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HOUSE ACTIVITY REPORT

PASSED

HB 44

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)
To designate May 24 as First Responders' Appreciation Day.
97-0

HB 84

MONTH DESIGNATION (Arndt, S., Patton, T.)
To designate June as "Ohio Goes Boating Month."
97-0

HB 103

FISCAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS (Reineke, B.)
To modify the composition and powers of the financial planning and supervision commission of a political subdivision that is in a state of fiscal emergency and to clarify the duties of that political subdivision.
94-1 (Ramos)

CONFERENCE REPORT ADOPTED

HB 26

TRANSPORTATION BUDGET (McColley, R.)

To make appropriations for programs related to transportation and public safety for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of those programs.
81-16

REFERRED

Civil Justice

HB 147

HUMANE SOCIETIES (Hambley, S.)
To make changes to humane society law and to make humane society agents subject to bribery law.

Criminal Justice

HB 137

CHILD ABUSE REPORTING (Kent, B.)
To make municipal and county peace officers mandatory reporters of child abuse or neglect.

HB 141

INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (Dever, J., Wiggam, S.)
To provide that causing or contributing to the death of another person as a result of the offender's sale, distribution, dispensation, or administration of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog is a violation of the offense of involuntary manslaughter and to make this offense a strict liability offense.

Economic Development, Commerce & Labor

HB 138

WAGE DISCRIMINATION (Smith, K., Boyd, J.)
To require the Ohio Civil Rights Commission to establish a system for individuals to make anonymous complaints regarding employers discriminating in the payment of wages.

Education & Career Readiness

HB 154

COMMERCIAL DRIVER STUDENTS (Smith, R., Manning, N.)
To establish the Commercial Truck Driver

Student Aid program and to make an appropriation.

Energy & Natural Resources

SB 2

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS (Hite, C.)
To revise specified laws relating to environmental protection.

Federalism & Interstate Relations

HB 142

CONCEALED WEAPONS (Wiggam, S.)
To eliminate the requirement that a concealed handgun licensee notify a law enforcement officer that the licensee is carrying a concealed handgun when stopped.

HB 151

FIREARMS DEALERS (Patmon, B.)
To prohibit a transfer of a firearm from a person who is not a federally licensed firearms dealer to a person who is not a federally licensed firearms dealer unless it is done through a federally licensed firearms dealer, through a state or local law enforcement agency, or pursuant to a specified exception; to require that background checks be conducted when a firearm is transferred through a federally licensed firearms dealer or a state or local law enforcement agency; and to provide for recordkeeping with respect to information obtained pursuant to such a background check.

HB 152

HUNTING LICENSES (Patmon, B.)
To require an applicant for a hunting license to specify whether the applicant has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony and to require the license to specify "firearm restricted" if an applicant has so indicated.

HB 153

IMITATION FIREARMS (Patmon, B.)
To generally ban the manufacture, sale, alteration, and public display of imitation firearms and the disguising of a firearm to make it resemble an imitation firearm

Finance

HB 148**HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS****(Patmon, B.)**

To require statewide registration of home improvement contractors, to create the Home Improvement Board, and to make an appropriation.

Government Accountability & Oversight**SB 44****CAMPAIGN FINANCE (LaRose, F.)**

To allow certain campaign committees and other entities to file campaign finance statements electronically and to require the Secretary of State to make the information in those electronic statements available online.

HB 132**FANTASY CONTESTS (Dever, J., McColley, R.)**

To grant the Ohio Casino Control Commission the authority to regulate fantasy contests and to exempt fantasy contests from the gambling laws.

HB 144**WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (Green, D., Rogers, J.)**

To require motor vehicle operators to take certain actions upon approaching a stationary waste collection vehicle collecting refuse on a roadside.

HB 145**CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT (Huffman, S., Sprague, R.)**

To provide for the establishment of a confidential program for the treatment of certain impaired practitioners and to declare an emergency.

Health**SB 57****AWARENESS DAY (Kunze, S.)**

To designate the seventeenth day of May as "Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma Awareness Day."

HB 131**PHYSICAL THERAPY (Gavarone, T., Reineke, B.)**

To modify the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

ABORTION (Patmon, B., Conditt, M.)

HB 149

To expand the crime of abortion trafficking and to increase the penalty.

Public Utilities

HB 133

DISASTER WORK (Ryan, S.)

To create the Disaster Relief Act to exempt out-of-state disaster businesses and qualifying out-of-state employees from certain taxes and laws with respect to disaster work on critical infrastructure performed in this state during a declared disaster.

HB 143

ELECTRIC COMPANIES (Sprague, R.)

To clarify the definition of "electric distribution company" for kilowatt-hour tax purposes.

State & Local Government

HB 134

SCHOOL GRANTS (Hambley, S., Kick, D.)

To allow community improvements board grants to a school district to be spent for permanent improvements outside the county so long as the improvements are within the school district.

HB 135

DAY DESIGNATION (Patmon, B.)

To designate June 12th as "Superman Day."

HB 139

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE (Perales, R., Keller, C.)

To eliminate the public disclosure exemption for any permanently retained record 100 years after the date of its creation.

HB 146

DEATH CERTIFICATES (Householder, L.)

To allow a coroner to change the cause, manner, and mode of death in a filed death certificate only after a hearing in the court of common pleas.

Transportation & Public Safety

HB 136

ROAD NAMING (Arndt, S.)

To designate a portion of State Route 61 in Erie County as the "SGT David Sexton Memorial Highway" and a portion of Benton-Carroll Road in Ottawa County as "SGT Glen Millinger Memorial Highway."

HB 140

ROAD NAMING (Green, D.)

To designate a portion of State Route 32 in Brown and Highland Counties as the "Army Specialist Danny Raymond King Memorial Highway."

HB 150

LICENSE PLATE (Patmon, B.)

To create a special license plate for hearing-impaired individuals.

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ALEC Digital Exchange: Is Your State Tired of Losing to the "Fourth Branch"?

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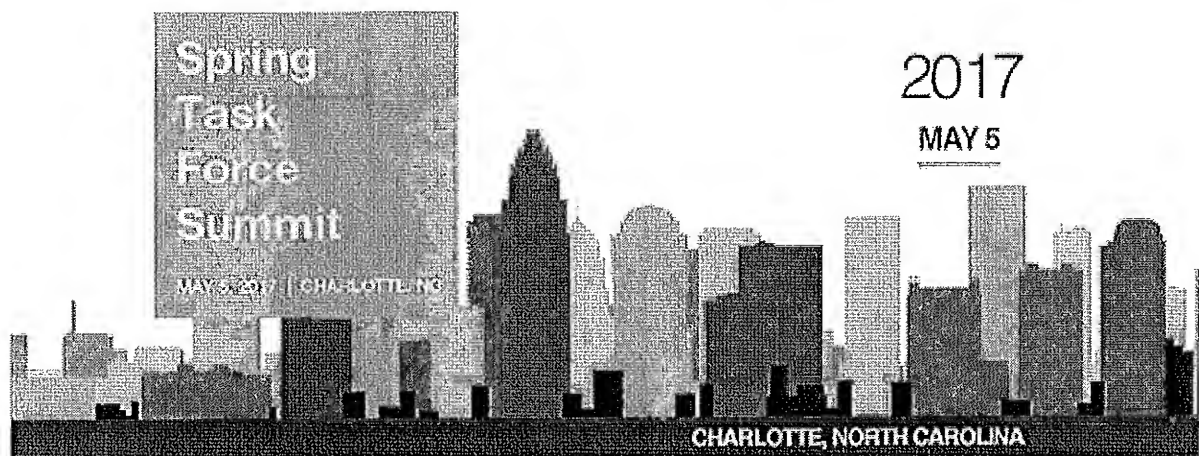
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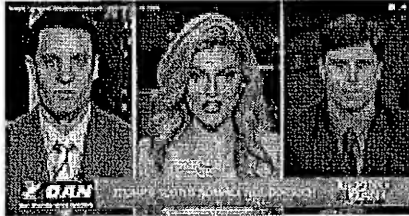
Make your plans to attend a demonstration during the Spring Task Force Summit. RSVP to Ashley Varner.

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In The News

Ronald Lampard Discusses Gorsuch Nomination on OAN

Tipping Point | Ronald Lampard | Director, ALEC Criminal Justice Reform Task Force



Director of the ALEC Criminal Justice Reform Task Force, Ronald Lampard and Adam Sostrin discuss the confirmation hearing of Trump's SCOTUS nominee Neil Gorsuch.



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Expert Opinion

Trump's 'Skinny Budget' Brings Much-Needed Belt Tightening

The Hill | Jonathan Williams | ALEC Chief Economist | @Taxeconomist



Compared with 40 years of presidential budgets, President Trump's "Skinny Budget" proposal may be the "skinniest", by far. The total 2018 discretionary budget requests a staggering **\$14.8 billion net reduction** from 2016's enacted total. Click here for the full analysis.



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Expert Insight

Administrative State Delenda Est

Townhall | Inez Stepman | Jarrett Stepman



While taxes and healthcare are perennial policy battles, the so-called "fourth branch" is in many ways responsible for the "rigged game" that many conservative voters are tired of losing. When Democrats are in power, government grows; when Republicans are, it continues to do so at a slightly decelerated pace.



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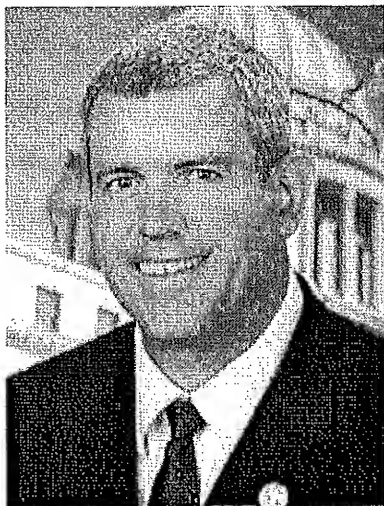
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Featured ALEC Member

ALEC-FreedomWorks Legislator of the Week

Speaker Philip Gunn | 61st Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives



In 2004 Speaker Gunn was first elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and in 2012 he was elected to become the 61st Speaker of the House of Representatives in Mississippi. This is the first time in 136 years a Republican has held this title in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Through the years, he has served on the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Republican Party and has served as Chairman of the Republican House Conference since it was formed in 2006. He was instrumental in organizing the Republicans in the House of Representatives for the first time in modern history.



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Dear Sarah,

I'm pleased to share an advanced digital copy of the **2016 ALEC Annual Report**. The book is at the printers right now, and you will receive it in the next two weeks. I wanted to share it with you first because it is powerful. You already know ALEC was a hive of activity last year, but **seeing it in one infographic** paints an incredibly impressive picture.

In 2016 alone:

- **ALEC had a policy presence in 45 states.**
- Our policy experts led national debates on tax, education and criminal justice reform.
- We hosted thousands of legislators and others at three annual meetings and five academies.
- **Tax and Fiscal Policy** alone added value through intensive programing in **30 states**.
- We had 52 public speaking opportunities where ALEC educated thousands of influencers and opinion leaders.
- We increased the quality and frequency of published **research**, reaching **more than 35 million American households**.
- We sat for 29 television appearances and more than 350 interviews—**that's more than one-a-day for the entire year.**

And we did it beacause of your support and commitment to ALEC—because of your support and commitment to limited government, free markets and federalism. You laid the foundation for our great work last year which has in turn allowed us to hit the ground running this year.

In 2017, we will outpace last year's achievements. And, the truth is, we have to. We all have to. Right now is our time. We have a narrow window of opportunity to ensure the right policy is considered in the states. Every indication from Washington is that decision making and control is returning to the states, and early decisions from DC clearly represent an earnest desire by the administration to restore the balance of government. ***That means it's up to us.***

That's why I have one request of you: **When you receive the 2016 ALEC Annual Report**, included in the envelope will be a membership application. **Once you've read the report, please share it and the membership application with a legislator, business leader or other stakeholder you think should be at the table.** It is incumbent on each of us to support—personally and through advocacy—the growth of this organization.

Thank you for all you have done and all that you will do. I'm looking forward to seeing you in **Charlotte for the Spring Task Force Summit** where we will discuss the 2017 session and how to achieve success in 2018.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Nelson
CEO